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**FIRST LESSONS**  
IN THE  
**HISTORY**  
OF THE  
**UNITED STATES:**  
COMPILED FOR THE USE OF THE  
**JUNIOR CLASSES**  
IN  
**JOSEPH HOXIE'S ACADEMY.**



BY MRS. C. M. THAYER,  
LATE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FEMALE  
DEPARTMENT.



**New-York:**

PUBLISHED BY JOHN F. SIBELL,  
264 Pearl-Street



WILLIAM A. MERCEIN, PRINTER,  
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1828.

Southern District of New-York, ss.

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, That on the  
third day of June, in the 47th  
year of the Independence of the  
United States of America, Joseph  
Hoxie, of the said district, hath  
deposited in this office the title of  
a Book, the right whereof he  
claims as proprietor, in the words  
following, to wit:

**L. S.**

“First Lessons in the History of the United States;  
“compiled for the use of the Junior Classes in Joseph  
“Hoxie’s Academy. By Mrs. C. M. Thayer, late  
“Superintendent of the Female Department.”

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, “An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;” and also to an Act, entitled, “an Act, supplementary to an Act, entitled, an Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints.”

**JAMES DILL,**

Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.

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# **ADVERTISEMENT**

## **TO THE THIRD EDITION.**

The approbation which an intelligent and generous publick have bestowed upon this little work, not only encourages the Proprietor to publish a third edition, but induces him to believe it is becoming a very useful school book. Without any puffing, or even advertising, without even throwing it into the market, two large editions of this truly American work have been sold. And indeed what work can be found more adapted to the capacities and circumstances of the youth of our country? Can a son or daughter in the United States find any other really well fitted to youthful capacity, and yet so subsidiary to the promotion of all those sublime, patriotick, extensive and benevolent views and feelings, that make up the truly great and useful man! When a youth in the following pages contemplates the circumstances that led to the discovery and settlement of this continent; the toils of our ancestors in the wilderness; their heroic and successful resistance of foreign tyranny, he cannot fail of becoming a better citizen and a better man. The contemplation of such an event as the American revolution is better calculated to elevate and rejoice the heart than the contemplation of the siege of Troy; and a perusal of the deeds of a Washington, a Franklin, a Hamilton, a La Fayette, a Hancock, an Adams, and others the patriot sages and heroes of our Revolution, has a much more salutary tendency than the study of the far famed characters presented to the world in the writings of Homer and Virgil.

The Proprietor will only add, that, as no labour or expense has been spared to render this edition of "First Lessons in the History of the United States," interesting and profitable to the rising generation, he hopes it will, as an elementary book, or a holiday present find its way into the hands of every child in the country.



## RECOMMENDATIONS.

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To Mr. Joseph Hoxie, Principal of the Academy at St. Matthews, New-York.

New-York, July 17. 1823.

DEAR SIR—As an *American* and as a *father*. I feel greatly indebted to Mrs. Thayer for the admirable little volume on American History, with which she has favoured your young pupils, and the public. But as a *Christian* also, I tender her my special thanks for the sound principles which she endeavours to inculcate on the juvenile mind, by means of that publication.

Independent of the authentic character, the suitable selections, the impressive detail, and the judicious form of the "First Lessons," their tendency is obvious, from the brief concluding address, to subserve the *true interests* of our country ; for "no nation can long continue free, unless her children are instructed to fear God and practice virtue." Very respectfully, your sincere friend and servant,

F C SCHAEFFER.

*Pastor of the Lutheran Church, New-York.*

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*Mr. J. Hoxie*—Sir : I have given the little volume by Mrs. Thayer a thorough perusal ; and it affords me pleasure to state, as my opinion of its merits, that the authoress has happily succeeded in adapting the interesting and important study of the history of our country to the capacity of childhood.

History has seldom been *effectually* taught in our schools : not, however, for want of the strictest attention of scholars nor of the most laborious exertions on the part of the teachers, but it is chiefly to be attributed to the diffuse and inappropriate arrangement of the histories said to be "*written for the use of Schools*". In executing the "First Lessons in the History of the United States," Mrs. Thayer has not been misled by that false pride of

authorship which has occasioned so many writers for youth to "forget the day of small things." The Lessons have been arranged with a particular view to the unexpanded understanding of *children*, and dressed in a style, which, though simple, is by no means characterized by sterility of expression. As an American, I shall be pardoned for classing, amongst its most prominent merits, that spirit of patriotism breathing through its pages, which I consider admirably calculated to inspire an ardent love of our native country, even at an early age.

Yours, &c.

JOSEPH C. HART,

*Late Principal of the Mechanic's School, New-York.*

(A similar recommendation has been received from Mr. John Coats, Principal of the Philom Academy, No. 208 William-Street, which has been mislaid.)

New-York, July 28. 1824.

*Mrs. Thayer*—Madam, I have perused with great satisfaction, your work entitled, "First Lessons in the History of the United States," and sincerely hope it was not intended *exclusively* "for the Junior Classes in Mr. Hoxie's Academy."

We have long felt the want of a work of this kind adapted to the capacities of children; but, after the successful manner with which you have treated the subject, I think our necessities are supplied, and trust the minds of the children entrusted to our care, will (after reading it) be generally incited to know more of the interesting history of our highly favoured country; a country not only the "land of the olive and the grape," but the nursery of liberty, and the asylum of the oppressed.

May it also become (through the exertions of enlightened instructors and the continuance of the blessing of that providence which has done so much for us,) a nation whose virtues shall be equal to its privileges.

With my best wishes for the successful effects of your labours in the culture of the youthful mind,

I remain, Madam, yours, &c. E. ORAM,

*Principal of a Select Female School, Broadway.*

*Mr Hoxie*—Dear Sir ; The little volume of American History, which you had the politeness to send me, I have examined, and highly approve of the plan of question and answer; and from the cursory perusal which I have given it, it appears to be judiciously compiled. At present I have no juvenile classes on the subject in question; when I shall have, I will introduce your book with pleasure.

Yours, with respect, &c      R. LOCKWOOD,  
Principal of an Academy in Chamber street.

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The History of the United States of America, in 24 lessons, and 144 pages, 18 mo by Caroline Matilda Thayer, of New York, appears to be a compilation better calculated for small scholars than the much larger and excellent work of a similar kind, by Rev. C. A. Goodrich.

CORNS. C. BLATCHLY, M. D.

27 of 7 mo. 1823.

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From Rev M. M. Carll, Principal of an Academy in Philadelphia

"First Lessons in the History of the United States," appears to me to be a book well calculated to answer the purpose for which it was designed. Its arrangements being divided into short Lessons, followed by a series of Questions on the leading facts, will have a tendency not only to lessen the labours of the teacher, but cannot fail to make a deep and lasting impression on the mind of the pupil. It would give me pleasure to see the histories of Greece, Rome, and England, thrown into the same form. Philadelphia, July 31. 1822.

MRS. C. M. THAYER.

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New-York, July 22, 1822.

I have examined an abridged History of the United States, designed for the pupils in Mr. Hoxie's school.

by Mrs. C. M. Thayer. It comprises the most interesting facts respecting the settlement, progress, and institutions of our country, as recorded by the best writers, and is better adapted to the wants of young learners than any other work of its kind which I have seen.

W S. CARDELL,  
*Principal of the Cornelia Institution, No 9 Murray-St.*

From B M'Gowan, Teacher, Cherry-st New-York,  
July 14, 1823

Mr. M Gowan returns Mr Hoxie thanks, for the little book "First Lessons." He considers the plan very good, and the arrangement judicious, making the exercise for each, more a pleasant study than a tedious and difficult task, having the most essential part of "Grimshaw's" history reduced to a small compendium. The questions at the end of each chapter are a valuable acquisition, and no doubt will force its way into the different schools in a short time.

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New-York, July 22, 1823.

I am convinced that Mrs. Thayer's First Lessons in the History of the United States, is much better adapted to the capacities of children than any other I have read.

I remain, dear sir, yours, &c WM FOREST, A M.

*Teacher of an English and Mathematical School, Warren-street*

Joseph Hoxie, Esq.

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To Joseph Hoxie, Esq. Principal of an Academy, &c.  
White street, July 12, 3 P. M 1823

Samuel L. Mitchel has read with as much attention as he could, Mrs. Thayer's First Lessons of Fredonian History, forwarded a few days ago.

He rejoices to find in the intelligent author a person who gives credit to the navigators of the North, the

Ericksons, and others, worthy of higher praise than they have generally received ; and who may, without extravagance, be conjectured to have pushed their discoveries to Cape Cod, if not to Montauk Point, four hundred years at least before Columbus was born.

And he is gratified in the perusal of such an epitome as seems calculated to make strong and just impressions on the youthful mind, and to prepare the pupils of her care to understand how the several British plantations, colonies, and provinces, grew into independent states, and formed that political association or partnership which distinguishes them from all the governments of ancient and modern times.

Warren Academy, July 23, 1823.

DEAR SIR—I have examined Mrs. Thayer's *First Lessons in the History of the United States*, and think it a valuable little compendium, well calculated to introduce the juvenile mind to an acquaintance with the history of our own country. It will be read with interest by all classes. The topics are judiciously selected, and expressed with that clearness and elegance which make the perusal of the work highly interesting.

As a text book, the questions annexed to the end of each chapter are a valuable appendage.

Wishing the work its merited patronage, I am, with great esteem, yours, &c.

CHARLES BELDEN,  
Principal of Warren Academy.

Mr. Joseph Hoxie,

# PREFACE.



THE compiler of the following pages is far from supposing she has added any thing to the stock of historical knowledge already before the public. Her only aim has been to present the outlines of the history of our own country in such a form as to be easily remembered by children. The want of some such book for the use of the Junior Classes in the Seminary where she has the happiness to teach, has been her principal inducement to the undertaking, in which she has been encouraged by her respected friend, the principal ; to whose zealous exertions for the improvement of his pupils, the public is indebted for the publication of what was at first designed only to be used in manuscript.

It is hardly necessary to add, that this little book is not intended to preclude the use of a more extensive work.

The history of the United States, by Grimshaw, is written in a style which cannot fail to please, and combines much useful information ; but it is believed that a portion of

the leisure hours of children may be profitably devoted to reading the history of our own country, before they are old enough to comprehend the whole of that interesting volume. This little work may serve as an introduction to that or any other history of the United States. Questions are added to each lesson, because the writer has found, from experience, that children will study with more pleasure, and, consequently, with greater improvement, when their minds are directed to particular facts. It is not necessary, however, that teachers should be confined to these questions. Whatever may be elicited by genius, or added by industry, may be brought into requisition, and subserve the important purpose of cultivating the immortal mind, in the early stage of its progress towards the perfection for which it has been designed by the beneficent Creator.

# **FIRST LESSONS**

## **IN THE**

### **HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

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#### **LESSON I.**

#### **DISCOVERY.**

THE first discovery of the American Continent has been generally ascribed to Christopher Columbus ; but as it is now universally admitted that Greenland is a part of the American Continent, the date of the discovery must be carried back to the year 982, when the Norwegians first visited that country. In the year 1003, they also discovered a country, which they called Vineland, where they planted a colony. This is supposed to have been the coast of Labrador ; but their attempts to colonize the country were unsuccessful, and the partial knowledge they had obtained of this cold and dreary region was soon lost.

These partial discoveries of the Norwegians do not lessen the merits of Columbus, because they were wholly unknown to him, and not found in the Geographies of that



period. He has, therefore, a fair claim to the honour of having discovered the NEW WORLD. Columbus was a native of Genoa, but at the time of making this great discovery, resided in Spain. From a long and close application to Geography, he had obtained a knowledge of the true figure of the earth, much superior to the general opinions of the age in which he lived. That the globe might be properly balanced, with a due proportion of land and water, he conceived that another continent must necessarily exist, which he supposed to be connected with the East Indies. After many fruitless applications to different European powers for patronage and assistance, to enable him to prove the truth of his theory, he at length obtained three small vessels, under the patronage of Ferdinand and Isabella, who governed the united kingdoms of Arragon and Castile.

On this occasion, Queen Isabella displayed an enterprising and generous mind, worthy of the imitation of her sex ; for when it was urged that the Court of Spain was deficient in funds to enable them to undertake so expensive a naval enterprise, she offered to pledge her jewels to obtain money, generously preferring the public good to the decorations of her person.

Three vessels were manned with ninety men, and sailed for one year. The largest, named the Santa Martha, was commanded by Columbus in person, and he was made Admiral of the fleet. With this small fleet, he sailed from Palos, in Spain, on the 3d of August 1492, and steered directly for the Canary Islands. Here he stopped, and refitted, as well as he could, his little fleet, and, on the 6th of September, sailed a due western course into an unknown ocean.

He had many hardships and difficulties to encounter, both from the nature of the undertaking, and the ignorance and timidity of the persons under his command. On the 14th of September, he found that the magnetic needle did not point exactly to the north, but varied towards the west, and as they proceeded, this variation increased. This being the first time that phenomenon was observed, the sailors were filled with terror, and at length threatened, if Columbus did not immediately return to Spain, they would throw him into the sea, and retreat from a trackless ocean, before their only sure guide should entirely fail.

On this trying occasion Columbus displayed that fortitude and vigour of mind for which he was distinguished, and at length obtained the consent of his men to proceed three days longer. Happily for mankind, on the morning

of the third day, land was discovered. This great event took place on the 12th of October, 1492. The land proved to be an island, one of the cluster called Bahama, or Lucaya Islands, to which Columbus gave the name of St. Salvador. Steering southward he also discovered the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola (now Hayti,) inhabited by a humane and hospitable people. He returned to Spain, and arrived at Palos the 15th of March, 1493.

He made three other voyages to America, and in his third voyage, discovered the continent, at the mouth of the river Orinoco; then coasted westward 600 miles to Cape Vela, where he crossed over to Hispaniola.

In 1502 he made his fourth voyage, and discovered the harbour of Porto Bello and the Gulf of Parien.

This great man was not destitute of enemies, who, envying his success, embittered his declining life. His friend and patroness, Isabella, was dead; and Ferdinand, forgetful of the services of his illustrious subject, suffered him to languish under the persecutions of his enemies. He died at Valladolid, on the 25th of May, 1506, in the 59th year of his age.

In 1499, Americus Vesputius, a native of Florence, accompanied Ojeda, an enterprising Spaniard, to America. On his return he published an account of his voyage, and a description of the new continent. His book circulated rapidly, and was read with admira-

tion. In this narrative Americus insinuated that the glory of having discovered the new world belonged to him, and by some unaccountable caprice, the error was perpetuated, so that by universal consent this great continent is now called America.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

To whom has been ascribed the honour of discovering the continent of America ?

Is Greenland a part of the continent ?

By whom was it discovered ?

In what year ?

What other country did the Norwegians discover ?

Do these discoveries lessen the merit of Columbus ?

Of what country was Columbus a native ?

What led him to suppose there was a new continent to discover ?

Who assisted him in the undertaking ?

What is said of Isabella ?

Describe the fleet of Columbus ? From what port did he sail ? When ?

What course did he steer ?

What difficulties did he encounter on the voyage ?

When was land discovered ?

What island was first discovered ?

How many voyages did Columbus make to the new world ?

In which of them did he discover the continent ? Where ?

What discoveries did he make in his fourth voyage ?

How was the latter part of his life embittered ?

When and where did he die ?

Why was the country called America ?



## LESSON II.

### DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT OF NORTH AMERICA.

The discoveries of Columbus were limited to South America and the West India Islands. The shores of North America were first explored by John Cabot, who obtained a grant from Henry VII. of England, to discover unknown lands and annex them to the crown of Great Britain. In 1496 he explored the coast of Labrador, and 1497 discovered Newfoundland, and traversed the coast from thence to Cape Florida. Nearly eighty years elapsed before any attempts were made by the English to colonize the country, and

more than a hundred before any permanent settlement was made.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the opening of a direct intercourse with India was again attempted. This had been the favourite project of navigators for more than two centuries, and a route was now marked out different from any which had been pursued. As every attempt to find a passage by the north-east had failed, a scheme was now formed to hold an opposite course by the north-west, the conduct of which was entrusted to Martin Frobisher. In three successive voyages he explored the coast of Labrador, but without discovering any rational appearance of a passage.

About this time Sir Francis Drake accomplished his celebrated voyage round the world, an exploit which impressed the English with a just sense of their own abilities and courage, as equal to any undertaking. They now began to form plans for settling colonies in those countries which hitherto they had only visited.

Among the first adventurers was Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a brave and experienced officer. But two expeditions which he conducted were unfortunate, and the last awfully disastrous ; while returning to England without having performed any thing more important than the ceremony of taking possession of

Newfoundland, the frigate in which he sailed was lost at sea, and all on board perished.

This disaster did not discourage Sir Walter Raleigh, the relative of Sir Humphrey Gilbert. In 1584 Raleigh dispatched two small vessels, under the command of Philip Amintas and Arthur Barlow, which reached the coast of Virginia in sixty-seven days. They touched first at a island called Wocoken, (probably Ocascoke,) then at Roanoke, near the entrance of Albemarle Sound. On their return to England, Elizabeth was so well pleased with their description of the country, that she gave it the name of Virginia, as a memorial that this happy discovery was made in the reign of a maiden Queen.

The next year Raleigh fitted out a squadron of seven small vessels, and one hundred and eighty adventurers. This colony was left on the island of Roanoke, where they were soon reduced to great distress by famine, and the hostility of the Indians, and they all returned to England with Sir Francis Drake, on his return from the West-Indies.

The following year another expedition was fitted out under the command of captain White, which was equally unfortunate, and no permanent English settlement was made until the year 1607. This settlement was called Jamestown, in honour of James I. then King of England.

Previous to this period the Spaniards had made considerable settlements in Mexico, and the French had planted a colony in Canada. Mexico, the oldest city in America, was built in 1521, and Quebec founded in 1608.

A particular account of these settlements does not come within the limits of our plan, as this is designed to be a history of the United States, or independent America.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

How were the discoveries of Columbus limited ?

Who explored the shores of North America ?

When ?

How long after the discovery of America was the first English settlement ?

What had been a favourite project with navigators ?

What route had been pursued ?

What course was now marked out ?

Who conducted the enterprise ?

What country did Frobisher explore ?

Who first sailed round the world ?

What effect had this enterprise on the English nation ?

What plans did they now begin to form ?



What distinguished officer was among the first adventurers ?

Describe his expeditions ?

What other attempt was made to form a settlement ?

How did it terminate ?

Why was the country called Virginia ?

What was the fate of the second colony ?

Of the third, under Capt. White ?

When and where was the first permanent settlement made ?

What was it called ?

Where had the Spaniards and French made settlements ?

Which is the oldest city in America ?

When was it built ?

When was Quebec founded ?



### LESSON III.

## HISTORY OF THE SETTLEMENT AT JAMESTOWN.

The first settlers of all new countries have many difficulties to encounter, and many of the emigrants to America were ill calculated to improve an uncultivated country. They dissipated and profligate, and destitute of industry and economy which their situation required.

Dissensions broke out among their leaders, and they were involved in a war with the natives ; they suffered from famine and disease, and in six months one half of their number died.

The energy and talents of Capt. Smith saved the colony from utter ruin. This distinguished person seems to have been peculiarly fitted, by former sufferings, privations, and achievements, as well as by his great courage and personal bravery, to govern such men as composed the colony of Virginia. Being advanced to the chief command, he restored order, overawed the savages, and procured a stock of provisions.

In an expedition against the Indians, he was taken prisoner, and conveyed to Powhattan, the principal chief of Virginia. Here his genius assisted him to overcome a misfortune which bravery might in vain oppose. He promised the king a certain number of hatchets and blue beads for his ransom. The king consented, but insisted upon seeing the articles before his prisoner was set at liberty. Smith tore a leaf from his pocket-book, on which he wrote a brief account of his situation, and assured Powhattan if he would suffer one of his men to take it to Jamestown, he should find the articles under a certain tree, on a day which he named. The messenger was despatched, though Powhattan only

believed this to be an artifice to prolong the life of the prisoner ; but to his utter astonishment on the day appointed the articles were found, exactly as he had predicted. Smith was now regarded as a powerful magician, and liberated with every possible mark of respect.

For some time afterwards their dread of the powerful master of the magic leaf kept the Indians quiet ; but at length their fears being in some measure allayed, they ventured to attack the colony, and Smith was again taken prisoner.

He was now condemned to death, but at the moment of executing the sentence, Pocahontas, the favourite daughter of Powhattan, rushed between the prisoner and the uplifted club, and by her tears and intreaties, prevailed on her father to recall the sentence.

Nor was this all the service which this amiable child performed for the English. Powhattan and his chiefs had secretly formed a plan to cut off the English by a general massacre ; but one cold rainy night, when the Indians were confined to their tents by the storm, Pocahontas ventured alone through the wood and gave timely notice to Capt. Smith. By this seasonable information, the English were prepared, and the colony saved. Soon after the arrival of the great expedition under Lord Delaware, Smith returned to England. His return was the occasion of great loss and confusion to the English.

Pocahontas now ceased to visit Jamestown, but was after some time decoyed thither by an old Indian woman, whom the English had bribed by the reward of a copper kettle, to get this amiable princess into their hands as a hostage. She was persuaded on board a ship, where she was kept a prisoner until Powhattan, who dearly loved her, concluded a treaty with the English on their own terms.

Here Mr Rolfe was so charmed with her behaviour, that he married her, and took her to England. She was treated with kindness in England, and presented at court. Here she met Capt. Smith, but he did not receive her with the fondness which he was accustomed to show in America, at which she was much grieved, and it was long before she was reconciled to that change of manners which the decorum of the court required. She was instructed in the christian religion, and publicly baptized in England. We are told also, that "she became very formal and evil in her manners, after the English fashions"\* She died at Gravesend, having embarked for America. She left one son, from whom are descended some of the principal families in Virginia.

The culture of tobacco was introduced into the colony in 1616, and so great was the

\*General History of Virginia.

demand for it, that there was found to be a deficiency of labourers.

A Dutch ship from the coast of Guinea, with a cargo of slaves, sailed up the James River, and disposed of a part of her cargo to the planters. This was the introduction of slavery, an evil which still exists, although its effects are, in some degree, ameliorated. The colonists were chiefly young men, and without those local attachments which spring from the endearing relations of domestic life. To obviate this difficulty, the council of London, who managed the concerns of the colony, engaged a considerable number of young women, of humble birth, but unexceptionable character, to go over to America. The planters received them with great kindness, and paid their passage in tobacco.

Virginia was now fast advancing in wealth and numbers, when an event took place which brought the settlement to the brink of ruin. The Indians had long secretly planned to attack the English when they were unprepared, and cut them off by a general massacre. This design was carried into effect on the 22d of March, 1622, and in one hour nearly one fourth of the colony were destroyed.

A long and bloody war ensued, in which the Indians were slaughtered, without regard to age or sex.

Harassed by frequent dissensions among themselves, the London Company at length forfeited their charter, in 1624. The colony then became a royal government, under the immediate jurisdiction of the crown.

Of nine thousand persons who had emigrated thither, scarcely eighteen hundred remained at the dissolution of the company

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#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

What was the character of the first settlers in Virginia?

In what were they involved?

What occasioned their sufferings?

How many died in the first six months?

What celebrated commander is mentioned?

What is said of him?

To what was he advanced?

By whom was he taken prisoner?

How was his life preserved?

How was he regarded by the savages?

How was he saved the second time?

What other services did Pocahontas render the colony?

What effect had the absence of Smith on the affairs of the colony?

How was Pocahontas induced to visit Jamestown?

How was she treated ?

What effect had her imprisonment on Powhattan ?

To whom was she married ?

Where was she taken ?

How was she received in England ?

In what was she instructed ?

Where did she die ?

What family did she leave ?

When was the cultivation of tobacco introduced ?

How was slavery introduced ?

How did the planters procure wives ?

How did they pay their passage ?

What brought the colony to the brink of ruin ?

What ensued ?

When was the charter forfeited ?

How many persons had emigrated ?

How many remained ?



#### LESSON IV.

### SETTLEMENT OF THE NORTHERN COLONIES.

NEW-YORK.

In 1614 the Dutch settled New-York and New-Jersey, and called the country New-Netherlands.

A few years afterwards the Swedes settled on several parts east and west of Delaware river, and kept possession till 1654, when they were overpowered by the Dutch.

Charles II. resolving to assert his right to this territory, granted to his brother, the Duke of York, the region extending from the west bank of the Connecticut river to the eastern shore of the Delaware. This happened in 1664. Colonel Nichols was sent with four frigates and three hundred soldiers, to reduce the country. The Dutch governor being unable to make resistance, the New-Netherlands submitted to the British crown, and Nichols immediately entered upon the exercise of his power as Deputy-governor of New-York, for the Duke of York, afterwards James II.

#### MASSACHUSETTS.

The particular cause of the settlement of Massachusetts was the persecution carried on in England, on account of religious opinions. The principles of toleration, now so generally practised, were then imperfectly understood; and since the genuine principles of Christianity are now more fully known, it is to be hoped that such transactions will not be repeated.

The government of England required a strict observance of the rites established, and



enacted severe laws against non-conformity. The Puritans and Brownists, or Independents, were the most obnoxious, and these sects were often punished with rigour.—About 1608 a body of these people fled to Holland, and settled under Mr. Robinson, their pastor. The circumstances of their embarkation for Holland are exceedingly affecting. The captain of a Dutch ship had been engaged to take them away privately. It was a cold and rainy night when they assembled on the beach, where men, women, and children, were forced to suffer the “peltings of the pitiless storm” for two hours, before the tide would permit the Dutch captain to send a boat on shore for them. At length the tide served, the boat was sent ashore, and deeply laden, but in the hurry of embarkation, care had not been taken to prevent the separation of families, and before these were safely on board the ship, the officers of government came down and arrested the remainder. Husbands and wives, parents and children, were separated—some were dragged to prison, many did not meet for years ensuing, and some never met again.\*

After some years these unfortunate people became dissatisfied with their residence in Holland, and resolved to remove to the wilds

\* Webster's Discourse.

of America. Their first object was to obtain the free exercise of their religion. Though king James refused so reasonable a request, he promised not to molest them while they remained peaceable subjects. On this slender security, they applied to the London Company for a tract of land, which was readily obtained.

They intended to settle on Hudson river, but the captain of the vessel, bribed, it is said by the Dutch, carried them so far to the north that the first land they saw was Cape Cod. To proceed farther was impossible; the winter had already commenced, and they were worn down with the fatigue and hardships incident to a long voyage. They chose for their station a place called by the Indians Patuxet, to which they gave the name of New-Plymouth. Before spring one half of their number were cut off by famine and disease.

On the 22d of December, 1620, these pilgrims, to the number of 101, landed in the new world. The anniversary of their landing is still observed by their descendants, and a discourse delivered on the occasion.

The government of England, growing still more oppressive, under the counsels of Archbishop Laud, and the number and zeal of the Puritans increasing, many began to look towards New-England as a place of refuge from persecution. An association was form-

ed for settling a colony near Massachusetts Bay. A tract of land was purchased from the Plymouth Council in 1627, and a charter granted by King Charles the following year. In 1629, nearly 300 Puritans landed in Salem. Their first care was to form themselves into a church, on the congregational plan. Among the emigrants there were a few who preferred the rituals of the church of England ; and with an inconsistency not uncommon to imperfect human nature, the Independents denied to others the privileges for which they had braved the perils of the ocean, and established themselves in a distant and barbarous land.

Theological controversies arose, and many persons deemed heretical were banished the territory.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

When, and by whom, was New-York settled ?

Where had the Swedes a settlement ?

How long did they keep possession ?

What grant was made to the Duke of York ?

Who was sent to reduce the country ?

What was the cause of the settlement of Massachusetts ?

What did the government of England require ?

How were the Puritans treated ?

Relate the circumstances of their embarkation for Holland ?

Why did they resolve to remove to America ?

What was their first object ?

What promise was made to them by king James ?

Where did they intend to land ?

Why were they carried farther to the north ?

What land was first seen ?

Where did they land ?

How many were they in number ?

What occasioned their sufferings ?

How many died during the winter ?

What occasioned the settlement of the colony of Massachusetts Bay ?

When was a tract of land purchased ?

When was a charter obtained ?

How many Puritans landed at Salem ?

In what year ?

What gave rise to religious controversies ?



## LESSON V.

### THE NORTHERN COLONIES CONTINUED.

#### RHODE-ISLAND.

Roger Williams, a clergyman, being obliged to leave Massachusetts on account of his

religious opinions, travelled southward, with several of his adherents. In 1634 he received a grant of land from the Indians, which from a sense of the protecting care of God, he called Providence. Other emigrants afterwards settled on Rhode-Island; and in 16 Providence and Rhode-Island were incorporated as one government by Charles II. Thus was laid the foundation of another state.

#### CONNECTICUT.

To similar causes is owing the settlement of Connecticut. About 100 families, with their favourite minister, Mr. Hooker, of Massachusetts, after a fatiguing march through the woods and swamps, settled on the east side of Connecticut river, and laid the foundation of Hartford, Springfield, and Weathersfield. Two distinct claims were made upon this territory, one by the Dutch, and the other by Lord Say and Seal, and Lord Brook. These noblemen had taken possession by building a fort, which, from their united names, they called Saybrook.

#### NEW-HAMPSHIRE AND MAINE.

Mr. Wheelwright, a clergyman of some note, having by his opposition to the church

government of Massachusetts, been banished the colony, took a route different from that of the other exiles, and founded the town of Exeter, on a small river which flows into Piscataqua bay. Thus commenced the settlement of New-Hampshire.

Attempts were made to colonize Maine as early as 1607, but no permanent settlement was effected until 1635, when Sir Ferdinand Gorges obtained a grant of this territory.— Upon the death of Gorges, the people combined, and formed a constitution upon liberal principles, by which they were governed until they submitted to Massachusetts, in 1652. Maine then took the name of Yorkshire, having liberty to send deputies to the general court at Boston,

By extending their settlements, the English became exposed to serious dangers.— The Indians round Massachusetts' Bay having received what they considered an equivalent for their lands, gave no indications of hostilities; but Rhode-Island and Connecticut soon had to encounter a numerous and powerful foe.

The native inhabitants, by us improperly called Indians, were divided into many distinct nations or tribes. Among the most powerful were the Narragansets and the Pequods. The latter alone were able to bring in-

to the field a thousand warriors. These had long been at war with the Narragansets ; but foreseeing the extinction of their race, if the Europeans were suffered to spread over the country, they applied to the Narragansets, requesting them to forget old animosities, and unite to expel the common enemy.

The Narragansets perceiving in this an opportunity to crush a powerful rival, instead of accepting the offer of friendship, discovered the design of the Pequods to the governor of Massachusetts, and joined in alliance with the English. Long and bloody wars ensued, but as the colonies increased in number, and extended in territory, the uncivilized savage fell before the superior skill of their invaders, and in a few years many powerful nations were totally extirpated.

While the settlers were thus lessening the number of the ancient inhabitants, they were daily receiving an addition to their own. In the year 1638 nearly 3,000 people embarked for New-England ; but on a revolution taking place in the government of England, the motives to emigration which actuated the early settlers entirely ceased. At this period upwards of twenty-one thousand British subjects had settled in New-England.

## QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

Who was the founder of Rhode-Island ?

On what account did he leave Massachusetts ?

From whom did he receive a grant of land ?

What did he call the town ?

When were Providence and Rhode-Island incorporated ?

Describe the settlement of Connecticut.

What towns were founded ?

What claims were made upon the territory ?

Where did Mr. Wheelright settle ?

Why ?

When was Maine settled ?

Under whom ?

When united to Massachusetts ?

Under what name ?

With what privilege ?

What principal Indian nations are mentioned ?

What is said of them ?

What ensued ?

How did the colonies increase ?

How many persons embarked in 1638 ?

What effect had the revolution in England ?

How many British subjects had settled in America ?



**LESSON VI.****SOUTHERN AND MIDDLE STATES.**

Many remarks of the New-England colonies will apply to the middle and southern territories ; our notice of them, therefore, will be brief. Virginia and New-York have been already mentioned : these were the oldest settlements, and together with Massachusetts, have continued to hold an important rank in the Union.

Maryland began to be settled in 1633, by a colony of Roman Catholics, under Lord Baltimore. Governor Calvert, brother to Baltimore, purchased the land of the Indians, and, with their consent, took possession of the town, which he called St. Mary's.

The country was settled with ease. The plan of the government was liberal, and free toleration was established. The settlers applied themselves to the cultivation of tobacco, and the country soon became flourishing and populous.

Carolina was taken possession of by a company of French Protestants, who fled from persecution, and settled themselves near Albemarle river. This colony was soon extirpated by the Spaniards. In 1662, Charles

II. granted the country to Earl Clarendon, and seven other noblemen ; and in 1669 the proprietors sent over a number of settlers, who fixed their residence at the place where Charleston now stands.

A constitution was formed for this settlement by the celebrated Mr. Locke ; but, though ingenious in theory, it was found inapplicable to the state of the country, and at last totally changed. This colony was long in an unsettled and unprosperous state ; the people were harrassed by the Indians, and invaded by the Spaniards and French. They suffered much by famine and disease ; and in 1719 the proprietors gave up their claim, and the colony became a royal government. In 1728 the country was divided into North and South Carolina.

In 1664, the Duke of York disposed of New-Jersey to Lord Berkley and Sir George Carter. The plan of government was liberal, and the colony soon became flourishing. The proprietors divided their property by a line running north and south : hence the names of East and West Jersey. In 1722 the province became a royal government.

Pennsylvania was next settled, by William Penn, a Quaker, who obtained a grant of land from Charles II. in 1680. He did not think a charter from any prince could give a

fair title to the land : he therefore purchased the right of soil from the natives, and introduced into his settlement the most liberal plan of government. He allowed full liberty of conscience, and granted land to settlers on easy terms. By this means the colony soon became the most flourishing of any in America.

The settlement of Delaware commenced in 1627, with a colony of Swedes and Finns.

About the time that Pennsylvania was settled by William Penn, he purchased the territory of Delaware from the Duke of York.

The proprietary government continued until the commencement of the American Revolution.

In 1732 the tract of land between the Savannah and Altamaha rivers, afterwards called Georgia was granted to a number of gentlemen by James II. and the settlement of Georgia was begun under Mr. Oglethorpe.

It was long before this colony attained to population or strength, owing to the impracticable system of government established by the proprietors. In 1752 they surrendered their charter to the king ; but it was not until the peace between England and France, in 1763, that the province began to prosper. Since that time it has rapidly increased.

We have now taken a brief survey of the thirteen original colonies, which afterwards became independent states. Many others have been successively added to the number, which will be mentioned in their proper places.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

Why will our notice of the Southern states be brief?

Which states have been mentioned?

What is said of them?

When and by whom was Maryland settled?

What is said of the country?

To what did the settlers apply themselves?

Who first took possession of Carolina?

What became of this Colony?

To whom was the country granted?

When?

How was it settled?

What is said of the constitution?

What is said of the state of this colony?

How did the Duke of York dispose of New-Jersey ?

What was the plan of government ?

How was it divided ?

What colony was next settled ?

How did William Penn obtain the land ?

By what means did the colony become flourishing ?

When and by whom was Delaware settled ?

How long did the proprietary government continue ?

When and by whom was Georgia settled ?

What is said of it ?

Of what have we now taken a survey ?



## LESSON VII.

### PROGRESS OF LITERATURE IN THE COLONIES.

The early settlers of America were not inattentive to the interests of literature. Many of them were men of learning, and next to the enjoyment of their religious liberty, they

seemed to prize their literary institutions. In 1636, the legislature of Massachusetts voted 400*l.* for the establishment of a public school at Newtown. Two years afterward, that sum was nearly doubled, by a bequest of the Rev. John Harvard of Charlestown. Thus endowed, the school was erected into a college, and Newtown, out of respect to the University of England, where many of the emigrants were educated, was called Cambridge. Thus was laid the foundation of Harvard University.

Some years afterward, a building was erected for an Indian college, in which several of the natives entered, but only one remained long enough to obtain academical honours. As a further compensation for the injuries sustained by them from the encroachment on their lands, and consequent diminution of the means of supporting life, the Rev. Mr. Elliot, a pious minister, of Roxbury, translated the Bible into their own language, and had it printed at the expense of a society established for the spreading of religion. He also composed for them a primer, a grammar, and a book of psalms, and was the means of opening schools in the Indian settlements, where children were instructed, not only in their own language, but in the English, Greek, and Latin. Thus the light of the blessed gospel,

and the means of education, were diffused in a heathen land.

The education of children seems to have been recognized from the beginning of the respective settlements, as the indispensable duty of parents and masters. Laws were made, in some of the colonies, for the express purpose of compelling all parents to have their children instructed "so as to be able to read the Scriptures, and other good and profitable books in the English tongue"\* The neglect of this duty subjected to a penalty of twenty shillings for the first, afterwards higher, or their children were to be taken from them, and put under the care of others.

The Hopkins Grammar School is the oldest literary institution in Connecticut. It was founded in 1654, with a bequest from governor Hopkins. William and Mary College, in Virginia, was founded in 1693, and Yale College, at Saybrook, in 1700. Sixteen years afterward it was removed to New-Haven, where it became one of the most flourishing institutions in America.

In 1769, Dartmouth College, handsomely endowed by the Earl of Dartmouth, was established on Connecticut River, in the town of Hanover. In New-Jersey, a college was

\* Laws of Connecticut, 1656.

founded at Princeton in 1738, and another at Brunswick in 1746.

Kin 's College (now Columbia) was founded in New-York, in 1754, and Providence College, (now Brown University,) in Rhode-Island, in 1764.

These were all respectable institutions before the Revolution ; in them a sufficient number of young men received a classical education, to fill the learned professions with reputation, and to be the instructors of youth. In New-England, particularly, learning was more generally diffused, and common schools established on a more liberal foundation than in any other country of the world.

The first printing press was established at Cambridge, in Massachusetts, in 1639, and superintended by Stephen Daye, but erected at the expense of Mr. Glover, an English clergyman.

The first newspaper was the "*Boston Newsletter*," published at Boston as early as 1714. In 1729, William Bradford published the *Weekly Magazine* in Philadelphia. The *American Philosophical Society* was instituted at Philadelphia. in 1769, and that city also claims the honour of having published the first edition of the Bible, and the first Greek book printed in America. Among other eminent men whose names give interest to the



page of American history, we may reckon Dr. Benjamin Franklin. He was born in Boston, of creditable parents, but of narrow fortune. By the single force of untutored genius, he rose to the highest eminence in science, arts, and literature. His discoveries in electricity alone are sufficient to transmit his name to the latest posterity.

No country in the world can trace her origin with equal certainty as America. The early history of almost all other nations is involved in fable, but here our infancy is too recent to leave room for doubt or speculation. We can look back to the period when this smiling land, now covered with plenty, where agriculture and science walk hand in hand towards perfection, was a desolate wilderness, inhabited only by wild beasts and rude and savage men. When we trace the progress of improvement, from the landing of our pilgrim ancestors to the present highly prosperous and cultivated state, we must gratefully acknowledge the bounty of that Providence, who has led us from our infancy to manhood.

The hand of perserving industry, under the blessing of heaven, has turned the barren wilderness into a fruitful field, and made the desert literally "*blossom as the rose.*"

Several useful inventions have also originated in America. The electrical conductor of Franklin, the planetarium of Wittenhouse, and Godfrey's quadrant, were all previous to the revolution.

The families of Winthrop and Mather were distinguished among the first inhabitants of New-England for their general abilities. Of the latter, Cotton Mather was the most conspicuous. His *Magnalia*, published in the beginning of the last century, is a curious work, and interesting to the scholar, as containing the early history of New-England, blended with much of the superstition of the age.

As a botanist, Doctor Clayton, of Virginia, was deservedly celebrated. His "*Flora Virginica*," published at Leyden, in 1762, ranks him among the most industrious enlargers of the botanical catalogue.

In 1734, Mr Logan of Pennsylvania, translated Cicero's treatise on Old Age which was printed by Dr. Franklin. In the preface, Franklin says, "this is the first translation made from the ancient classics, in the *new world*;" but this was a mistake, as Mr. Sandys, treasurer of the Virginia Company, translated Ovid's *Metamorphoses* more than a century before. This was the oldest literary production in America.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

What is said of the first settlers of America?

What grant was made by the Legislature of Massachusetts?

How was the fund increased?

What did the school become?

Why was Newtown called Cambridge?

What building was afterwards erected?

How did it succeed?

What is said of the labours of Mr. Elliot?

What works did he compose?

What did he establish?

What were the children taught?

What duty of parents were early recognized in the colonies?

How was it enforced?

When and by whom was the Hopkins grammar school founded?

When was William and Mary College founded?

Yale College?

Dartmouth College?

What Colleges were established in New-Jersey?

When?

When was King's College founded?

## 48 QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION. [Less. 8.]

What is it now called ?

What College was established in Rhode-Island ?

When ?

What is said of the progress of learning in New-England ?

When and where was the first printing press established ?

Where was the first newspaper printed ?

What Society originated at Philadelphia ?

What books were printed there ?

Where was Dr Franklin born ?

What is said of him ?

What is said of the history of America ?

To what can we look back ?

What must we acknowledge ?

What inventions originated in the colonies ?

What is said of Cotton Mather ?

Of Dr. Clayton ?

Of Mr Logan ?

What is the oldest literary production in America ?



## LESSON VIII.

### INDIAN AND FRENCH WARS.

We have already glanced at the dangers to which the colonies were exposed from the hostility of the Indian tribes.

Philip, the chief of the Massoit tribe, was one of the principal warriors. He attacked the settlement at Massachusetts in 1675, and was vigorously opposed by Col Church. After a bloody contest of more than a year, Philip was killed by the treachery of one of his own men, the Indians were vanquished, and the powerful nation of the Massoits entirely dispersed.

The ancient rivalship of France and England extended to America. The French had made settlements in Canada and Nova-Scotia, and, when the mother countries were at war, the colonies of each took a part in the contest. In 1692, the French from Canada, assisted by the Indians, made an irruption into the colony of New-York, burned the town of Schenectady, and massacred the inhabitants. From 1702 to 1713, frequent inroads were made by the French and Indians—villages were burned, the inhabitants plundered and inhumanly murdered, or dragged into captivity in the wilderness. The savage warfare spared neither age nor sex, and mothers and their helpless offspring often weltered in blood together.

To expel the French from Canada and Nova-Scotia, was a favourite measure in New-England. A small body of troops from Massachusetts succeeded in reducing Louis-

burg, the capital of Cape Breton—a service which gave great advantage to Britain in the contest with France.

Peace was soon after made, but was of short continuance. Some disputes between the Ohio company and the French traders in the vicinity of the Ohio river, led to a renewal of hostilities. It was in this contest that the talents and virtues of Washington began to be exhibited. The Governor of Virginia wished to employ a proper person to carry a letter to the French commandant on the Ohio, demanding the reasons of his hostile conduct. This arduous enterprise was intrusted to George Washington, then a youth of little more than 21 years of age. The distance was four hundred miles, two hundred of which was through a wilderness, inhabited by hostile savages. On the way his horse failed. On foot, with only one companion, with a musket in his hand, and a pack upon his shoulders, he reached the French fort on the river Le Boeuf and gave the letter to the commander. He returned in safety, as fatiguing and perilous a journey as possible to conceive. The next year is distinguished for the disastrous defeat of Gen. Braddock. He had been sent from Ireland to Virginia with two regiments of foot. He was brave, but imprudent. Despising the

counsel of Washington, who acted as his aide-de-camp, he rushed forward to attack fort Du Quesne, till he was suddenly attacked by 400 Indians, who laid in ambush. A total defeat ensued; and Braddock, mortally wounded, lamented too late, that he had not listened to the prudent advice of the brave, but sagacious Washington. In this battle he had two horses shot under him, and four bullets passed through his coat, but God had designed him to be the future saviour of his country, and he was not suffered to receive any hurt.

The defeat of Braddock was followed by the expedition of Gov. Shirley, of Massachusetts, which was equally unsuccessful; and Oswego was taken by the French, under General Montcalm.

In 1759 the British were every where successful. The important post of Niagara was taken by Sir William Johnson, and the reduction of Quebec attempted by General Wolfe.

This illustrious British Officer fell before the walls of Quebec in the moment of victory. Struggling in the agonies of death, he heard a voice cry, "they run;" he asked, who run? and, being told the French, he replied, "I die happy," and he spoke no more. Quebec

immediately surrendered, and the whole province of Canada was reduced the following year.

After the war had raged nearly eight years, it was concluded in 1763.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

At what have we already glanced ?

What principal Indian warrior is mentioned ?

What finally became of him and his nation ?

Where had the French made settlements ?

What town was burned in 1692 ?

What occurred from 1702 to 1613 ?

What is the characteristic of savage warfare ?

What was a favourite measure in New-England ?

Describe the expedition to Cape Breton ?

What occasioned a renewal of the war ?

When did Washington begin his military career ?

On what service was he employed ?



What was the distance ?  
How did he travel ?  
For what is the next year distinguished ?  
What is said of Braddock ?  
How was he attacked ?  
What ensued ?  
What did Braddock lament ?  
What is said of Washington ?  
What followed the defeat of Braddock ?  
When was Niagara taken, and Quebec attempted ?  
Who fell before Quebec ?  
What is said of the death of Wolfe ?  
What took place the following year ?  
When was peace concluded ?



## LESSON IX.

### CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The attempts of the British government to encroach upon the rights of the colonies, and

particularly to raise a revenue in America without her consent, were the immediate causes of the American Revolution.

The colonists had fled to America for the enjoyment of their civil and religious privileges, and the same detemined opposition to arbitrary power, which induced them to brave the perils of the pathless ocean, to seek an asylum for liberty, prompted their descendants to resist the first invasions of their natural rights.

During their infancy, Great Britain regarded her colonies as mere instruments of commerce, and contented herself with a monopoly of their trade. But, when the colonies had grown more capable of resisting impositions, she changed the system under which they had long flourished, and rose in her demands, as she multiplied their restraints.

It was in 1761 that the fundamental rights of the American colonies were first openly and boldly proclaimed, and Massachusetts has the honour of being the first province in which resistance to the British ministry was publicly avowed.\*

\* For a knowledge of the facts connected with this avowal, the compiler is indebted to Tudor's Life of James Otis, politely communicated by the Rev. F. C. Schaeffer.

In 1760, an order in council arrived from Great Britain, directing the officers of the customs to carry into effect certain acts of trade, which bore hard upon the commerce of the colonies, and to apply to the Supreme Judicature of Massachusetts for writs of assistance.

Application was accordingly made to the Supreme Court then sitting at Salem.

Chief Justice Sewall expressed great doubts of the legality of the writ; but as the application was on the part of the crown, it could not be dismissed without a hearing, which was fixed for the next term.

Before that period arrived, Chief Justice Sewall died, and was succeeded by Lieut. Governor Hutchinson, thus uniting, in one person, the offices of Lieut. Governor, commander of the castle, Judge of Probate, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The officers of the customs called upon James Otis; as Advocate-general, to argue their cause, but believing the writs to be tyrannical and illegal, he refused; and disdaining to hold an office where he might be called upon to assist in oppressing his countrymen, he resigned his very lucrative situation as advocate-general for the crown.

In February, 1761, the cause was argued in Boston; and on this occasion James Otis,

forward, without fees, to advocate  
rights of the merchants, made his  
the writs of assistance.

in an argument of four or five hours in length, he laid down the principles of civil liberty, and especially, that great maxim, that taxation without representation is tyranny. "Then and there," says president Adams, "American Independence was born. Then and there, was the first scene in the first act of opposition to the arbitrary claims of Great Britain. Every man, of an immense and crowded audience, seemed to go away as I did, ready to take up arms against writs of assistance." Mr Adams adds, in another place, "I do say in the most solemn manner, that Mr. 'Otis' oration against writs of assistance, breathed into this country the breath of life."

In 1765 was passed the celebrated Stamp Act, by which the Americans were compelled to use stamped paper for all notes, bonds, and other legal instruments, on which paper a duty was to be paid. This act gave great offence, and raised the spirit of opposition to a height heretofore unexpected. In the legislature of Virginia, an animated speech was delivered by Mr. Patrick Henry, and a number of patriotic resolutions passed. In Mas-

sachusetts, the legislature passed a resolution in favour of a continental congress, fixed a day for its meeting in New-York, and sent letters to the speakers of other assemblies, requesting their concurrence.

The first continental congress assembled accordingly, and agreed on a declaration of their rights, and a statement of their grievances.

The general aversion to the Stamp Act was demonstrated in a variety of ways—associations were formed against importing or using British goods; and in order to avoid using stamped paper, the courts of justice were shut up, and people settled their controversies by arbitration. The Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, but the next year a duty was laid on tea, glass, paper, and many other articles much used by the Americans.

This occasioned so great disturbances, that in 1770 a Parliamentary repeal took place, except three pence per pound on tea.

The duty was still disagreeable to the Americans, who seemed inflexibly resolved to admit no compromise with their rights. In 1773 the people of Boston, who were determined not to pay the taxes, employed some persons to go in disguise on board some ships belonging to the East India company, and

throw all the tea over-board. This enkindled the resentment of the parliament, which they expressed the next year by shutting the port of Boston, and ruining the trade of that flourishing town.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

What were the immediate causes of the Revolution?

For what had the colonists fled to America?

How had Great Britain regarded her plantations?

When did she change her system, and rise in her demands?

When were the rights of the colonies first openly advocated?

By whom?

On what occasion?

By whom was chief justice Sewall succeeded?

What offices did Hutchinson sustain?

What says President Adams?

What does he remark in another place ?

When was the Stamp Act passed ?

How was it received by the colonies ?

When was the first continental Congress convened ?

On what did they agree ?

What associations were formed ?

How was the use of stamped paper avoided ?

When was the act repealed ?

What duty was imposed the next year ?

What is said of the repeal ?

How did the people of Boston express their disapprobation of the duty on tea ?

What effect had this on the British parliament ?

How did they express their resentment ?



## LESSON X.

### COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES.

Among other aggressions, of which the colonists complained, was the stationing of a military force among the inhabitants. This

in some instances led to bloodshed, particularly on the night of the 5th of March, 1770, when a party of the military fired upon and killed several of the inhabitants, who had previously insulted, threatened, and attacked them.

In times of popular commotion, it is not to be expected but that excesses will be committed on both sides. The military were often insulted by the people they were sent to overawe ; and on this occasion, after an impartial trial, the actors in this fatal tragedy were acquitted.

The event made, nevertheless, a deep impression on the minds of the people ; and the anniversary was solemnly observed for many years.

After the destruction of the tea, parliament seemed resolved to bring the colonies to subjection. The charter of the colony was new modelled, so that the executive government was taken wholly from the hands of the people, and the nomination of all important offices vested in the crown. It was enacted also, that any person indicted for a capital offence might be removed to another colony, or even to England, for trial. Property, liberty, and life were thus subjected to the caprice of the executive. The right of trial by jury, was wantonly invaded.



Affairs now approached the crisis, and the awful collision drew near. The apparent disposition of the people, and their military preparations, induced Gen. Gage to fortify the isthmus which joins Boston to the main land, and seize the powder lodged in the arsenal at Charlestown.

General Gage had been sent to Boston with the troops to enforce the new laws, and was therefore particularly obnoxious to the people.

The same year, deputies from most of the colonies met at Philadelphia, who approved the conduct of the people of Massachusetts, wrote a letter to General Gage, published a declaration of rights, formed an association not to import or use British goods, sent a petition to the king of Great Britain, an address to the inhabitants of that kingdom, another to the inhabitants of Canada, and another to the inhabitants of the colonies.

In the beginning of the next year was passed the Fishery Bill, by which the northern colonies were forbidden to fish on the banks of Newfoundland for a certain time. This bore hard upon the commerce of those colonies, which were chiefly supported by the fisheries.

Soon after, another bill was passed, which restrained the trade of the southern and middle colonies to Great Britain and the West India Islands, except on certain conditions.

These repeated acts of oppression on the part of Great Britain, alienated the affections of the colonies for the parent country, and produced a combined opposition to the system of British taxation. Active preparations were now made to oppose, by force, the execution of these acts of Parliament. The militia were trained to the use of arms, and great encouragement was given for the manufacture of gunpowder, and all kinds of military stores.

In February, Col. Leslie was sent with a party of British troops, to take possession of some military stores at Salem. But the people had intelligence of the design, took up the draw-bridge, and prevented the troops from passing until the cannon were secured.

In April, Col. Smith, and Major Pitcairn, were sent with a body of troops to destroy the military stores which had been collected at Concord, about twenty miles from Boston. At Lexington, the militia were collected to oppose the incursion of the

British troops, and were fired upon, and eight men killed upon the spot. The militia were dispersed, and the troops proceeded to Concord, and destroyed the stores ; but on their return they were harassed by the Americans, who fired upon them from houses and fences, and pursued them to Boston. The loss of the British was sixty-five killed, and two hundred and eight wounded and taken prisoners ; that of the Provincials was fifty killed, and thirty-eight wounded and missing.

Thus the fatal blow was struck, and the first blood spilt in the memorable contest which severed America from the British empire, and gave her a rank among the nations of the earth. This took place on the 19th of April, 1775.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

To what did the stationing of troops in the colonies sometimes lead ?

What occurred on the 5th of March 1770 ?

What impression did this event make on the people ?

What did Parliament resolve ?

What measures did Parliament pursue ?

What was enacted ?

What place was fortified ?

Why ?

Who commanded the troops ?

Where and when was the next Congress ?

What measures did they pursue ?

What act was next passed by the Parliament ?

What effect had the fishery bill ?

What other bill was passed ?

What did these acts produce ?

What manufacture was encouraged ?

Where was Col. Leslie sent ?

For what purpose ?

Why did he not succeed ?

What occasioned the battle ?

How many were killed ?

How were the British harrassed  
return ?

How many were killed ?

How many wounded and taken ?

How many did the Provincials lose ?

When did the battle of Lexington  
place ?



## LESSON XI.

### BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.

Intelligence of the battle at Lexington  
immediately dispersed through the country.

and roused not only Massachusetts, but all America. The Congress of Massachusetts, then in session at Watertown, ten miles from Boston, voted that thirty thousand men should be raised in the New-England colonies, and in a short time an army was paraded in the vicinity of Boston, under the command of General Ward; which, although it fell short of the prescribed number, was much superior in numbers to the royal troops.

In the mean time, the forts, magazines, and arsenals, which, according to the constitution of the country, were in the keeping of his Majesty, were for the most part seized by the provincial militia. Ticonderoga and Crown Point, in both of which were royal garrisons, were surprised and taken by Cols. Allen and Easton.

Provincial money, which had been collected for other purposes, was appropriated to the common cause, and arms and ammunition secured. Their funds, however, were small, and their troops undisciplined; but they relied on mutual confidence for the extension of the former, and on invincible courage to supply the want of the latter.

In May, the reinforcements arrived from England, with three British generals of high reputation, Howe, Burgoyne, and Clinton. General Gage issued a proclamation, offering

to the people the alternative of submission or war, by offering pardon to all who would lay down their arms. From this offer of pardon, two distinguished patriots were excepted : viz. Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

About this time martial law was proclaimed, and as every appearance indicated open war, the Americans prepared for the result.

A considerable height on the peninsula of Charlestown, named Bunker Hill, was so situated that its possession was of consequence. Orders were therefore issued by the principal commanders, on the 17th of June, that Col. Prescott, with a detachment of 1200 men, should intrench upon its summit. Some mistake in fulfilling the order, however, led to a fortification being erected on Breed's Neck, a high and large like the other, but situated near Boston.

With so much diligence and silence was the work carried on, that between midnight and the dawn of day on the seventeenth of June, a redoubt was thrown up, forming a square of eight rods. Although the British vessels were lying very near, the troops on board of them had no intimation of the work until the rising sun beamed upon the newly erected fort.

An incessant firing immediately commenced, but the provincials continued to labour until they had thrown up a small breast-work, from the east side of the redoubt to the bottom of the hill.

About noon general Gage detached generals Howe and Pigot, with the flower of the British army, to drive the Americans from the hill. They landed at Morton's Point, and while they were advancing to the attack, orders were issued for burning Charlestown. A few bombs were thrown from Cops Hill, and the town being built chiefly of wood, was soon enveloped in flames.

A severe engagement ensued, in which the British were twice repulsed with great loss, but finally carried the fortification. Want of ammunition compelled the Americans to retreat, although they had suffered little loss, incomparision with the British. Among those whose loss the Americans deplored, was the brave General Warren, who fell in the action, a martyr to the cause of his country. Finding his corps hotly pursued by the enemy, he despised all danger, and stood alone before the ranks, endeavouring to rally his troops, and encourage them by his example. He pointed to their ensigns, and reminded them of their cheering mottos; "Fight on, my brave fellows," he exclaimed, "the salvation of your

country depends on this day's action."\* scarcely were these words uttered, when this distinguished patriot received a musket ball in the breast, and fell dead on the spot. The loss of the British, in killed, and wounded, amounted to one thousand and fifty-four. The provincials had one hundred and thirty-nine killed and two hundred and twenty-eight wounded.

This was the first regular battle fought in the revolutionary war. General Putnam, of Connecticut, a brave and distinguished officer, and Gen. Stark, of New-Hampshire, whose names will be long remembered, were both engaged in this action.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

What was the effect of the battle of Lexington?

\* The compiler's father has repeatedly assured her that these were the last words of Warren; and his opportunity of knowing, leaves little room for doubt, as he commanded the company which was then particularly addressed.



Where was Congress in session ?

What did they vote ?

Where was the army paraded ?

How large was it ?

What garrisons were seized by the provincials ?

What preparations did the Americans make ?

What British generals arrived in Boston ?

What proclamation was issued ?

Who were exempted from the offers of pardon ?

Where is Bunker Hill ?

What orders were issued by the provincial commanders ?

What mistake was made ?

How was the work carried on ?

Describe the fortification ?

Who were sent by general Gage ?

Where did they land ?

What town was burned ?

Describe the battle ?

What distinguished officer fell ?

Describe the circumstances of his death ?

What was the loss of the British ?

What of the provincials

What American officers were engaged in this action ?

**LESSON XII.****DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.**

The next important event was the appointment of General George Washington to the command of the American army. The continental Congress had assembled on the tenth of May, and proceeded with their usual firmness and moderation. Once more they addressed the King, and the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland, and at the same time published to the world their reasons for appealing to arms. "We are reduced," said they, "to the alternative of choosing an unconditional submission to the tyranny of irritated ministers, or, resistance by force. The latter is our choice. We have counted the cost, and find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery !" The choice of General Washington for a leader was unanimous, and he accepted the appointment with a diffidence which was a proof of his prudence and his greatness. In subordination to the commander in chief, one adjutant-general and eight brigadier generals were appointed. John Hancock, one of the proscribed patriots, was President of this Congress ; and among the officers which they

appointed were Generals Gates, Lee, Montgomery, and Greene, all of whom were afterwards distinguished actors in the great revolutionary contest

General Washington arrived at Cambridge in July, and took the command of the army, consisting of fourteen thousand men. The troops were in little subordination, and destitute of almost every thing necessary to carry on a war. All the powder in the camp amounted only to nine rounds a man. A few weeks afterwards, several British store ships were captured by New-England privateers, by which the Americans obtained a supply of powder, and many necessary articles.

In October, Captain Mowatt, of the British navy burned the town of Falmouth (now Portland) on Casco Bay, and an expedition to Canada was undertaken by Montgomery and Arnold. On the 12th of November, General Montgomery passed on to Montreal which being incapable of making effectual resistance, was evacuated by the British. Here the Americans obtained a plentiful supply of clothing, and in the river, took several boats loaded with ammunition and provisions.

About the same time, Colonel Arnold with one thousand men, detached from the

army at Cambridge, ascended the Kennebeck river, and marched three hundred miles across the wilderness, to Canada.

On the 5th of December, General Montgomery, with his army, joined Arnold before Quebec. On the 31st, at four o'clock in the morning, amidst a heavy storm of snow, the combined armies marched to the attack of the town. Montgomery passed the first barrier, but in attempting to take the second he was killed, and his troops led back by the second in command. The division under Arnold were equally unsuccessful; Arnold himself received a musket ball and was carried to the hospital. His men, under Captain Morgan, stood their ground till ten o'clock, when they were obliged to surrender prisoners of war. General Montgomery was much lamented; his remains were interred with the respect due to his rank, by the British commander, General Carleton; and Congress ordered a monument to be erected to his memory.

About the same time, Norfolk in Virginia, was burnt by order of Lord Dunmore; the British Governors of the Southern colonies retreated on board the armed ships, and British authority ceased throughout the Union.

The British king entered into treaties with some of the German princes for about seventeen thousand men, to be sent to America, to assist in subduing the colonies. The Boston port and fishery bills were repealed, but all American property on the high seas was forfeited to the captors.

This act induced Congress to change the mode of warfare, and measures were taken to annoy the enemy in Boston. Batteries were erected on several neighbouring hills, from which shot and bombs were thrown into the town. The Battery which was opened at Dorchester Point, was the most successful, and soon obliged General Howe to abandon the town. General Howe was now the commander, General Gage having returned to England in September. In March, 1776, the British troops embarked for Halifax, and General Washington entered the town in triumph. In the ensuing summer, Sir Peter Parker, with a small squadron of ships, and a body of troops under Generals Clinton and Cornwallis, attempted to take Charleston, the capital of South Carolina. They were repulsed with great loss, and the expedition failed.

On the Fourth of July, 1776, Congress published their DECLARATION OF IN-

**DEPENDENCE !** This important event took place two hundred and eighty-four years after the first discovery of America by Columbus, one hundred and seventy-four from the first permanent settlement in Virginia, and one hundred and fifty-six from the landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth. By this act, the thirteen colonies were declared to be **FREE, SOVEREIGN, AND INDEPENDENT STATES.** Thus the political ties between Great Britain and her colonies were forever dissolved, and America assumed a name and a rank among the Nations of the earth.

The motion to publish this Declaration, was made by Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, and seconded by John Adams, of Massachusetts. The Declaration of Independence was composed by Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, and signed in the state house at Philadelphia.

Though deficient in every thing necessary for carrying on a war, and apparently unequal to the contest, the American people, relying on the justice of their cause, with a strong confidence in the overruling Providence of God, freely adopted this magnanimous measure, and pledged to its support, *their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honour.*

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

When and where did the continental Congress convene ?

What measures did they pursue ?

What did they publish ?

Repeat the extract from that manifesto ?

Who was appointed to the army ?

How did he accept the appointment ?

What other officers were appointed ?

When did General Washington take command of the army ?

Of how many men did it consist ?

What is said of it ?

How did the Americans procure a supply of ammunition ?

What town was burned by the British ?

What expedition was undertaken ?

When was Montreal captured ?

What advantage was this to the Americans ?

By what route did Arnold proceed to Canada ?

Was the enterprize successful ?

Relate the circumstances of Montgomery's death and burial ?

By whom was Norfolk burned ?

Where did the British governors retreat ?

What treaties were entered into by the British king ?

What bills were repealed ?

What induced Congress to change the mode of warfare ?

What measures were taken to annoy the enemy ?

Who was now commander in chief ?

When did the British troops leave Boston ?

What is said of the expedition of Sir Peter Parker ?

When was independence declared ?

How long after the discovery of Columbus ?

From the first settlement in Virginia ?

From the first settlement at Plymouth ?

How many colonies were there ?

What were they declared to be ?

By whom was the motion made and seconded ?

Who wrote the declaration of Independence ?

In what were the Americans deficient ?

On what did they rely ?

What did they pledge ?



### LESSON XIII

## BATTLE OF LONG-ISLAND—NEW-YORK TAKEN—AFFAIRS IN NEW-JERSEY.

When the declaration of Independence was published, General Washington was in



New-York with about thirteen thousand men, encamped in the city, and in the neighbouring fortifications. Soon afterwards, General Howe arrived near New-York with a powerful army, and landed his troops upon Staten-Island. The Americans had erected fortifications on a neck of land which defended a small peninsula on Long Island. A ridge of hills ran in front of the works, passable only at three places. Of these works, General Sullivan had the command. Here General Howe resolved to commence his operations.

On the 26th of August General Heister took post at Flatbush with a body of Hessians, while the principal army, under the command of General Clinton, marched to the left of the Americans. On the 27th, at day-break, the attack began. The battle was long and bloody ; and the Americans, being attacked by General Heister from Flatbush, and by General Grant from the sea-coast, were compelled to retreat. In endeavouring to regain their camp, they were interrupted by General Clinton. Driven back, they again met the Hessians. In these desperate circumstances, some regiments forced their way to the camp, through all the dangers with which they were surrounded. Both parties displayed great valour and bravery ; but the fortune of the day was decidedly in favour of

the British. General Washington passed over from New-York just in time to witness the destruction to which so many of his best men seemed inevitably exposed. Wrung with anguish, it is said even to tears, he called a council of war, and it was determined that the troops should cross over to New-York. The retreat commenced in the evening, a little after dark, from the upper and lower ferry, on the East River.

Never was any movement more skilfully conducted or more highly favoured by Providence. The field baggage and artillery of about nine thousand men were conveyed to New-York over a river upwards of a mile wide, without the knowledge of the enemy, who were not more than six hundred yards distant. As the day began to dawn, a heavy fog arose, and hung over Long-Island, so that it entirely concealed the movements of the American troops. The wind too, which had been adverse, suddenly changed in their favour, so that the whole army were taken over in safety. General Sullivan had been made a prisoner by the British, and he was soon after sent on parole, with a message from Lord Howe to Congress, purporting that he had full powers to compromise the dispute.

Doctor Franklin, Edward Rutledge, and John Adams, were appointed to meet him, on Staten Island ; but it appeared he had only power to grant pardons on submission. Of course, no approximation was made towards peace.

After the battle of Long-Island, the army were dispirited, and the situation of Washington become trying and delicate. The militia went off by companies, the regular troops were discontented, and the people murmured. To hazard another engagement was against all good policy, and to retreat was disheartening. Washington pursued a middle course. The public stores were removed to Dobb's ferry, twelve thousand men were ordered to the northern extremity of New-York island, and four thousand five hundred remained to defend the city.

In September, General Howe attacked New-York, which was evacuated by the Americans, and taken possession of by the British. The Americans took a position on the north end of the island, and a skirmish took place, in which they behaved with great bravery, and came off victorious. This was the first success since the opening of the campaign, and it had a visible effect, in animating the troops. On the 12th of October, the British crossed over to Throg's Neck, towards Connecticut, to cut off the commu-

unication between General Washington and the eastern states; upon which the Americans assembled their main force at White Plains. A severe action took place, in which some hundreds fell on both sides. The British lay upon their arms all night, expecting to attack the Americans in the morning, but General Washington, unwilling to risk a formal engagement, retired farther up the country, and took a strong position at North Castle.

On the 15th of November, the British took fort Washington, the only post held by the Americans on New-York island. They then prepared to attack fort Lee, on the Jersey shore, and General Washington crossed to New-Jersey, with part of his army, leaving the remainder at North Castle under the command of General Lee.

The campaign had been hitherto unfortunate, and great depression of spirits prevailed. Many, from timidity, accepted the pardon offered by Lord Howe, some of whom were men of wealth and respectability, and some had been members of congress. To retreat was now the only expedient. As General Washington arrived successively at Newark, Brunswick, Trenton, and Princeton, he was still closely pursued by the British.

General Lee, who had orders to join the commander-in chief, was taken prisoner at

Baskenridge, by a party of British light horse, a circumstance which, on account of his military talents, was much regretted by the Americans. General Washington's army, when he crossed the Delaware, consisted of no more than twenty-two hundred men, and in a few days they were reduced to seventeen hundred, dispirited, dejected and in want of all things. About this time Rhode-Island was taken possession of by the British, without resistance.

In proportion as the situation of affairs became more gloomy, congress redoubled their exertions. They addressed the people in bold and animated language, dispatched men of influence to different parts of the country, to excite the militia to take the field; recommended a day of solemn fasting and prayer, and endeavoured to obtain assistance from foreign powers.

These judicious measures in the cabinet were accompanied with proportionate vigour in the field.

A bold enterprise was undertaken by General Washington. On the evening of Christmas day, he crossed the Delaware, and surprised a large body of Hessian troops at Trenton, and took them without the loss of a man. The detachment consisted of fifteen hundred German infantry, and a troop of British cavalry.

History affords few examples superior to this master-stroke in the art. Nothing seemed more improbable than such an attempt to the commander-in chief of that district, as he had boasted that he could keep the peace of New-Jersey with a corporal's guard.

The British had a strong battalion of light infantry at Princeton, and a force yet remaining near the Delaware, superior in numbers to the American army. General Washington therefore conceived it prudent to re-cross into Pennsylvania with his prisoners the night after the victory. These being secured, he returned to Trenton. The enemy did not suffer him to remain long undisturbed.

Their detachments assembled at Princeton, and were joined by the army from Brunswick, under Lord Cornwallis. The situation of Washington became critical, but his genius suggested a relief. Soon after it became dark, he ordered the baggage to be silently removed, when, leaving guards, and kindling fires, for the purpose of deception, he marched by a circuitous rout to Princeton, a distance of ten miles; and would have completely surprised and took the British there, had not a party on their way to Trenton, descried his troops and given the alarm. The royalists charged the Americans, and the latter gave way in disorder; when Washington

rushed forward, placed himself between his own troops and the British, with his horse's head to the latter. The Americans made a stand, and returned the enemy's fire ; and the General, though exposed to both sides, remained unhurt. A party of the enemy fled into the college, and surrendered.

The American loss in this engagement was numerically small ; but the gallant General Mercer, who fell in the action, was deservedly lamented.

The astonishment of the British at Trenton, was extreme. They had impatiently waited the morning, expecting to find the Americans an easy conquest ; and when they heard the firing at Trenton, though it was in the depth of winter, they took it to be thunder. So great was their consternation, that they immediately retreated to New Brunswick and Amboy.

Thus ended the campaign of 1776 ; and brighter prospects ushered in the eventful year 1777. It has been appropriately called the "*time that tried men's souls*," and will forever stand on the page of American history, a memorial of the courage and magnanimity of American soldiers, and of the peculiar Providence which crowned their efforts with success.

## QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

Where was General Washington when Independence was declared ?

What force had he ?

What troops arrived ?

Where did they land ?

Where had the Americans erected fortifications ?

Who commanded ?

Where and how did General Howe commence his operations ?

How were the troops disposed ?

How were the Americans attacked ?

Describe the action ?

Where was General Washington ?

How was he affected ?

What step did he take ?

Describe the retreat ?

What circumstances favoured the retreat ?

What General was taken prisoner ?

On what message was he sent ?

Who were appointed to meet Lord Howe ?

What was the result ?

What is said of the situation of Washington ?

What course did he pursue ?



What disposition was made of his troops and public stores ?

When was New-York taken ?

Where did the Americans take a position ?

What took place ?

What effect had it ?

What movement did the British make ?

Why ?

What took place at White Plains ?

What tort was taken by the British ?

What did they prepare to attack ?

What disposition did Washington make of his troops ?

What is said of the campaign ?

Describe the retreat of Washington.

Where was General Lee taken ?

What measures did Congress adopt ?

What enterprize was undertaken by Washington ?

Give the particulars ?

Describe the retreat to Princeton.

What is said of the engagement ?

Mention the conduct of the General ?

What distinguished officer fell in the action ?

What is said of the British at Trenton ?

Where did they retreat ?

What is said of the end of 1776, and beginning of 1777 ?

What has this year been called ?  
Of what is it a monument ?



## LESSON XIV.

### CAPTURE OF BURGOYNE.

The year 1777 was distinguished by very memorable events in favour of America. General Washington's winter quarters were at Morristown, in New-Jersey, where most of his troops were inoculated for the small pox. On the opening of the campaign in the spring, Gen. Tryon was sent by the British to destroy the military stores at Danbury, in Connecticut. The plan was executed, and the town mostly burned, but the British suffered there severely, and the Americans lost General Wooster, a brave and experienced officer.

In May General Washington left his quarters at Morristown, and took a long position at Middelburg, ten miles north of the river, from whence he could watch all the movements of the British.

The first object of General Howe was to get possession of Philadelphia ; but he was unwilling to cross the Delaware while General Washington was in force behind him. He, therefore, practised many manœuvres to draw the Americans from their position but without success ; and, after some slight skirmishing the British evacuated New-Jersey altogether.

Soon afterwards, the main body of the British army embarked at New-York, sailed up the Chesapeake, and landed at the head of Elk river, where they began their march for Philadelphia.

General Washington was determined to oppose them, and for this purpose made a stand near Brandywine creek. Here the armies engaged ; and the Americans were overpowered with great loss. The enemy pursued their march, and took possession of Philadelphia towards the close of September. At Germantown, also, the two armies were soon afterwards engaged, and both sides suffered considerable loss, but the British had the advantage.

In October, General Burgoyne, and the whole northern army of the British, were captured. The British had taken Ticonderoga ; and, crossing Lake George, encamped upon the banks of the Hudson, near Sara-

toga. Their progress, however, was checked by the defeat of Colonel Baum, near Bennington, in which the undisciplined militia of Vermont under General Stark, displayed unexampled bravery, and captured almost the whole detachment.

The militia, from all parts of New-England, assembled to stop the progress of General Burgoyne. These, with the regular troops, formed a respectable army, commanded by Gen. Gates.

After two severe actions, in which Generals Lincoln and Arnold behaved with great bravery, General Burgoyne was forced to capitulate. Ten thousand men, with their arms, ammunition, and artillery, fell into the hands of the Americans.

This event excited universal joy in America, and laid the foundation for the treaty with France.

About the same time, Esopus, a beautiful Dutch village on the Hudson, was burnt, by order of Gen. Vaughan.

The same year, General Washington defeated the Hessians at Red-Bank, which was, however, soon after evacuated.

John Adams was appointed Minister to Paris, in the place of Silas Deane, who was recalled.

More than one thousand American prisoners were confined in New-York, in the provost,\* and in the Jersey prison ship, where they were suffered to perish with hunger and disease.

This year Vermont became an independent state.

Several foreigners joined the American cause this year, and distinguished themselves for their bravery and prowess. The Marquis De La Fayette, of France, and Count Pulaski, of Poland, served in the battle of Brandywine ; and the celebrated Polish General Kosciusko, was chief engineer to General Gates. These noblemen had joined the American standard from their love of liberty, and conviction of the justice of the cause. And while they severally deserve, as they enjoy, the warm gratitude of the United States, yet this work would fail to be a record of truth, if it did not give an outline at least of the distinguished services rendered this country by the Marquis de La Fayette. At the moment when the then colossal power of the British Empire seemed ready to overwhelm this country, and it was reported that the American army was reduced to two

\* Now the Debtor's Prison.

thousand men, and was flying through New-Jersey before thirty thousand British regular troops ; at the moment when the credit of America in Europe could not procure a single vessel for her assistance, then it was that the magnanimous La Fayette said to our commissioners at Paris, “to this moment I have done nothing but admire your cause, but now I mean to serve it. The more hopeless it is in the public estimation, the more honour shall I acquire by espousing its interests. Since it is out of your power to procure a vessel, I will purchase and equip one myself ; and I take upon myself to be the bearer of your despatches to Congress.” He accordingly from his own resources fitted up a vessel, and procured for the service of our country, a quantity of military stores, and leaving a young and amiable wife, and all the fascinating scenes which his Court presented to him, he hastened to our relief.—Landing at Charleston, South Carolina, he proceeded to Philadelphia, and presenting himself before Congress, said, “I am come to request two favours of this house: the one is, to serve in your army in the capacity of a private volunteer ; the other, to receive no pay ”

Such was La Fayette at the age of twenty. To recount the services which he rendered

to this country, and the honours she has bestowed upon him—to rehearse all that he has suffered in the cause of liberty—would be to fill volumes. Let every American, to the latest posterity, remember, that he not only poured into the exhausted treasury of the Revolutionary Fathers, the proceeds of his princely fortune, but in their service expended his blood. It was the exertion of his powerful influence that conciliated in favour of the Revolutionary cause the Court of Versailles, and brought to our aid at the moment of our “utmost need,” a fleet and an army of brave and noble-minded Frenchmen. We do not say that, without this aid, the rising hopes of the friends of liberty would have been forever blasted. But is it not possible, not to say probable, that without it, the struggle would, for that time, at least, have proved unsuccessful, and Washington, Adams, Hancock, and other devoted friends to that noble cause, been executed as rebels and traitors?

Often when the American army was in want of provisions, blankets and clothing, when there was not even a single pair of shoes in that army, has La Fayette, from his own purse, supplied those necessities. When we remember these things, when the following words of La Fayette sound in our ears, “From the moment I first heard the name of America, I began to love her ; from the mo-

ment I understood that she was struggling for her liberties, I burned to shed my best blood in her glorious cause ; and the days I shall devote to the service of America, wherever and whenever it may be, will constitute the happiest of my life ,” when we consider the benign influence which an example like this, and gratitude such as these United States observe towards him, must have upon the moral destinies of the world ; when we call to mind the honours the country has awarded to its illustrious friend, the bust of enthusiasm with which in his visit to us in 1824, he was received, borne aloft in the affections of the people, as he stands conspicuous among all the great and good men that ever lived, passing from one end of our happy country to the other, through illuminated cities, triumphal arches, and millions of free-born grateful citizens, where all admired and no one envied him ;—we have more reasons than one to rejoice in the fact, that this Hero, Patriot and Philanthropist, was and remains our friend, and that our treatment of him furnishes at least one example of a **GRATEFUL REPUBLIC.\***

\* While this work was in the press, a bill granting to Gen. La Fayette \$200,000, and a township of 25,000 acres, in testimony of the United States' gratitude towards him, passed both houses of Congress, almost unanimously.



QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

For what was the year 1777 distinguish-  
ed ?

Where were Gen. Washington's winter  
quarters ?

Describe the expedition of Governor Try-  
on ?

When did Washington leave his quarters ?

What position did he take ?

What was the object of Gen. Howe ?

Why was he unwilling to cross the Dela-  
ware ?

What movement was made by the army at  
New-York ?

Where did General Washington make a  
stand ?

What is said of the engagement near Bran-  
dywine ?

When was Philadelphia taken ?

Where was another battle fought ?

Which had the advantage ?

When was Burgoyne captured ?

What fort had the British taken ?

How was their progress checked ?

How was the army of Gen. Gates formed ?

How many battles were fought between  
Burgoyne and Gates ?

What was the result ?

What American officers were distinguish-  
ed ?

94 QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION. [Less. 14.

Of what did the capture of Burgoyne lay the foundation ?

How ? Ans. *By impressing the French with a favourable opinion of the American cause.*

What village was burned ?

Whom did Gen. Washington defeat ?

Who was appointed Minister to Paris ?

Where were the American prisoners confined ?

How were they treated ?

What foreigners joined the Americans ?

What was the situation of the Americans at the moment La Fayette resolved to join them ?

His observations to the American Commissioners at Paris ?

In what manner did he first come to America ?

What state to congress on presenting himself before it ?

What further is stated in relation to his services ?

What would probably have been the fate of the country, and of Washington, Adams, and Hancock, had La Fayette not come to our aid ?

What did he often do for the American army ?

What say in relation to America ?

In conclusion of this lesson, what is stated concerning La Fayette ? and in the note ?

**LESSON XV.****ALLIANCE WITH FRANCE, TREACH-  
ERY OF ARNOLD, &c.**

The beginning of the year 1778 was distinguished by a treaty of alliance between France and America, by which the Americans obtained a powerful ally. When the English Ministry were informed that the treaty was likely to be concluded, they dispatched Commissioners to America to attempt a reconciliation, but their offers could not now be accepted. Early in the spring, Count de Estaing, with a fleet of fifteen sail of the line, was sent by the Court of France to assist America. General Howe returned to England, leaving the command of the army to Sir Henry Clinton.

In June the British left Philadelphia, and marched for New-York. At Monmouth they were repulsed with great loss; but General Lee, by an ill-timed retreat, lost the victory. For his conduct this day, General Lee was suspended, and never afterwards joined the army. This year Savannah was burnt by the British.

In 1779, Norwalk and Fairfield, in Connecticut, were burned. General Wayne sur-

prised and took the British garrison at Stony Point, with small loss on either side. In October, Gen. Lincoln and Count de Estaing made an assault upon Savannah; but they were repulsed with great loss, and the celebrated Polish Count Pulaski was mortally wounded. In 1780, the British troops left Rhode-Island. Charleston, in South Carolina was taken by Lord Cornwallis, who marched through the southern states, and supposed them entirely subdued.

In July, a French fleet, commanded by Monsieur Ternay, with a body of land forces, under the command of Count de Rochambeau, arrived at Rhode-Island, to the great joy of the Americans.

This year was also distinguished by the treachery of Arnold. General Washington, having some business to transact at Wethersfield, in Connecticut, left the important post of West Point under the command of Arnold. This post guards a pass in the Hudson river, about sixty miles from New-York. Arnold's conduct the preceding winter, had been censured, and he was determined to take revenge for the treatment he had received. For this purpose, he entered into a negotiation, with Sir Henry Clinton, to deliver West Point and the army into the hands of the British. While General Washington was absent, Sir

dismounted the cannon, and took other steps to render the taking of the post easy to the enemy.

Major Andre, a brave and accomplished British officer, was sent up the river to confer with Arnold ; but returning to New-York, divested of his uniform, he was intercepted by three American soldiers, John Paulding, Isacc Van Wart, and David Williams. He offered them his purse and a valuable gold watch to release him ; but these inflexible patriots, though poor, were not to be moved from their duty. They searched him, and found a plan of the fort, and other papers in Arnold's own hand writing, concealed in his boot.

Arnold escaped on board the *Vulture*, a British ship which lay in the river ; but Andre, having forfeited his life by the laws of war, was hanged as a spy.

General Washington soon restored order in the garrison ; and the exchange of one of their best men for a traitor, was all the British gained by this project. Major Andre was universally regretted. His fidelity had pointed him out to General Clinton as a suitable person to undertake this expedition ; but his candour made him inexpert in those arts of deception which is required.

After the defeat of General Gates in Carolina, General Greene was appointed to the command of the southern army. From this period affairs began to wear a more favourable aspect to the south. At Cowpens, General Morgan, after a severe engagement, defeated the British troops under the command of Col. Tarleton, the favourite officer of Lord Cornwallis.

After a variety of movements, the two armies met at Guilford, in North-Carolina. Here was fought one of the severest actions during the war. General Greene and Lord Cornwallis exerted themselves at the head of their respective troops; and although the Americans were obliged to retire from the field, the British army suffered an immense loss, and could not pursue the victory. This action took place on the 15th of March, 1781.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

For what was the beginning of 1780 distinguished?

What did the English ministry attempt?

Who commanded the French fleet?

Of what did it consist?

When did it arrive ?

Who now commanded the British army ?

What took place in June following ?

What happened at Monmouth ?

What city was burned the same year ?

What towns in Connecticut was burned ?

When ?

What is said of General Wayne ?

What happened in October ?

What celebrated foreigner was mortally wounded ?

When did the British troops leave Rhode-Island.

What city was taken by Lord Cornwallis ?

Where did he march ?

What did he suppose ?

What occurred in July ?

For what was this year distinguished ?

Where was General Washington ?

How is West Point situated ?

What British officer was sent up the river ?

How was he taken ?

What was found upon him ?

What was his fate ?

What was his character ?

What became of Arnold ?

What did the British gain by this project ?

What was the situation of affairs in the south ?

What occurred at Cowpens ?

What at Guilford ?  
When ?



## LESSON XVI.

### CAPTURE OF CORNWALLIS— PEACE.

In the spring Arnold, who was made a Brigadier General in the British service, with a small number of troops, sailed for Virginia, and plundered the country. This called the attention of the French fleet to that quarter ; and a naval engagement took place between the English and French, with considerable loss on both sides.

After the battle of Guilford, General Greene moved towards South-Carolina, to drive the British from their posts in that state. Here Lord Rawdon obtained an inconsiderable advantage over the Americans, near Camden. But General Greene more than recovered his disadvantage by his brilliant success at the Eutaw Springs, which may be considered as ending the war in South-Carolina.



Immediately after the battle of Eutaw Springs, the republican government was re-established in South Carolina, and the General Assembly of Georgia again assembled at Augusta. Lord Cornwallis, finding General Greene successful, marched to Virginia, collected his forces, and fortified himself at Yorktown.

The Marquis de La Fayette was despatched from the main army, with a small detachment, to watch the motions of the British. About the first of August, Count de Grasse arrived with a large fleet in the Chesapeake, and blockaded the British in Yorktown. Admiral Greaves, with a British fleet, appeared off the Capes, and an action took place, which was not decisive.

General Washington had previously removed the main body of his army to the southward ; and as soon as he heard of the arrival of the French fleet, he made rapid marches to the head of the Elk, where, embarking his troops, they soon arrived at Yorktown.

A close siege commenced, which was carried on with so much vigour by the combined forces of America and France, that Lord Cornwallis was obliged to surrender. This glorious event happened on the 19th of October, 1781, and decided the contest in fa-

your of America.) When the news was received at Congress, the aged door-keeper fell down and expired from excess of joy. Gen. Washington ordered Divine service to be performed in the different brigades of the army : and Congress resolved to go in procession to church, to return public thanks to the Father of Mercies for this signal victory.

The next spring Sir Guy Carleton arrived in New-York, and took the command of the British army in America. On his arrival he acquainted Gen. Washington and Congress that negotiations for peace had commenced at Paris.

The Empress of Russia and the Emperor of Germany were mediators in promoting this desirable object. Dr. Franklin, John Adams, John Jay, and Henry Laurens, were the commissioners on the part of America ; Mr. Fitzherbert and Mr. Oswald on the part of England. On the 30th Nov. 1782, provisional articles of peace were signed, by which Great Britain acknowledged the *Independence and Sovereignty of the United States of America*.

Thus America obtained a happy reward of her labours, and a full compensation for the streams of blood which her patriots had so freely shed. The contest began in weakness, mutiny, and devastation ; and ended in confidence, victory, and joy.

Large arrears were due to the army, and it became a difficult matter to disband them without pay. By the address of General Washington, this affair was managed to mutual satisfaction. A small sum was advanced, and certificates were given for the remainder. On the 3d of November the army were disbanded. They had suffered much; had been in want of all things, and often their footsteps might have been tracked in blood over the frozen ground. They had achieved the Independence of a nation; and they now returned to their homes with only three months' pay, in part of the large arrears which were due.

The officers, to perpetuate their friendship, formed themselves into a Society, which they named *Cincinnati*, after *Cincinnatus*, the celebrated Roman General, who, after having vanquished the enemies of his country, returned to the plough.

On the 25th of November New-York was evacuated by the British; and Washington, accompanied by Governor Clinton, entered the city in grand procession. An interesting epoch was now approaching. The commander-in-chief was to bid adieu to his officers, endeared to him by personal friendship, by common dangers, and by the successful issue of the enterprise in which they had

been engaged. The officers advanced successively ; he took an affectionate leave of each, and then passed through a corps of light infantry to the place of embarkation. He entered the barge, turned to his companions, waved his hat, and bade them a silent adieu.

He next proceeded to Annapolis, then the seat of Congress, to resign his commission.

This interesting ceremony over, he retired to Mount Vernon, and the peaceful occupations of domestic life.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

What circumstance called the attention of the French fleet to Virginia ?

Where did General Greene remove ?

What is said of the battle of Camden ?

What soon followed ?

What followed the battle of Eutaw Springs ?

Where did Lord Cornwallis march ?

Where fortify himself ?

Who was sent to watch his motions ?

What fleet arrived in the Chesapeake ?

Who commanded the British fleet ?

Where did they appear ?

What took place ?

Where was Gen. Washington ?

Whither did he march ?

What soon commenced at Yorktown ?

When did Cornwallis surrender ?

How was the news of this received at Congress ?

What did Washington order ?

What did Congress resolve ?

Who arrived at New-York the next spring ?

What communication did he make to Congress ?

What European sovereigns were mediators ?

Who were the American Commissioners ?

Who the British ?

When were articles of peace signed ?

What did Great Britain acknowledge ?

What did America obtain ?

When was the Army disbanded ?

How were they paid ?

What is said of the army ?

What took place on the 25th of November ?

Describe the parting of Washington and his officers ?

What Society was instituted ?

Whither did Washington proceed ?

For what purpose ?  
Where did he retire ?

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## LESSON XVII.

### ADOPTION OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

From the conclusion of the war to the establishment of the new constitution, the people of the United States suffered many embarrassments. The operations of the war had been retarded by the want of funds. There was no organized government to levy taxes, and the only resource of congress was to issue bills of credit. As the calls for money were incessant, Congress continued to emit bills until they had issued two hundred millions of dollars. These bills gradually depreciated, until they became of little value. To keep up the value, a law was passed making the continental money a legal tender. But notwithstanding the law, the depreciation continued, and many persons suffered severely in consequence. Some, who owed large debts, paid their creditors with a trifle ; the rich became poor, and those who were immersed in debt, took advantage of the times and became rich.

This money was never redeemed by Congress, and indeed, it was impossible that it should be. At the close of the war, the debt of the United States was estimated at forty millions of dollars. They were not able to pay the interest; public securities depreciated to one tenth of their nominal value, and the late army, and those who had furnished supplies, incurred great losses.

Trade languished, bankruptcies ensued, and industry was at a stand. The United States seemed to be thirteen distinct sovereignties, each pursuing its own interest, while the whole was suffering.

In 1786, an insurrection broke out in Massachusetts, headed by a Mr. Shay; but prudent and conciliatory measures being adopted, it was soon quelled.

In May, 1787, deputies from each of the states, except Rhode-Island, assembled at Philadelphia, for the purpose of forming a Constitution. After four months deliberation, they presented the new Constitution to the several states, and at length, after much discussion, it was adopted.

By this constitution, the blessings of civil and religious liberty are guaranteed to the people; and one of its chief excellencies is, that it contains a provision for future amendments, as the exigencies of the states shall

require.\* One legislative and judicial power pervades the whole union. The executive power is vested in a President and Vice-President, and the legislative in a Senate and House of Representatives, all chosen by the people.

The ratification of the constitution was celebrated with great joy. On the 3d of March, 1789, the new Congress assembled at New-York, and George Washington was found to be unanimously elected President of the United States, and John Adams, Vice-President.

In 1791, Kentucky and Vermont were admitted into the union. The latter had before declared independence, but being claimed both by New-York and New-Hampshire, could not be considered an effective link in the chain, until these states relinquished their claim.

The same year, the prosperity of the union was menaced by the opposition of the inhabitants of the western part of Pennsylvania to the measures of Congress, for raising a revenue by a tax on distilled spirits. The disturbances continued until 1794 when it was found necessary to send an armed force into the country, but happily the insurrection was quelled without bloodshed.

\*Several amendments have been made.



A remnant of the revolutionary war was still carried on by the Indian tribes, north west of the Ohio river, which had been chiefly directed against the frontiers of Kentucky. In 1791, General St. Clair experienced a disastrous defeat near the Miami villages. The summer of 1792 was spent in ineffectual overtures for peace, and the next year the army advanced as far as the ground where St. Clair had been defeated, and built fort Recovery.

In 1794, General Wayne totally defeated the Indians ; and in 1795 a treaty was concluded with all the hostile tribes, on terms mutually satisfactory.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

How had the operations of the war been retarded ?

How did congress supply the want of money ?

How attempt to keep up the value of the bills ?

What was the consequence

What was the debt of the United States ?

Where they able to pay ?

Who incurred losses ?

What did the United States seem to be ?

Where did an insurrection break out ?

When was the Constitution framed ?

What does it guarantee ?

For what does it provide ?

By whom are the officers of government chosen ?

In whom is the executive power vested ?

In whom, the legislative ?

Who was the first President ?

What new states were admitted ? When ?

How was the prosperity of the union menaced ?

How long did disturbances continue ?

How were they quelled ?

Where was war still carried on ?

What General was defeated by the Indians ?

What fort was built ?

When, and by whom ?

Who defeated the Indians ?

What occurred in 1795 ?



## LESSON XVIII.

### DIFFICULTIES WITH FRANCE.

While the administration were thus employed in quelling the refractory, and re-

straining the inroads of a subtle enemy, they were unexpectedly involved in a foreign war, by the great convulsions of Europe. The people of France, emboldened by the success of the American revolution, had proceeded in their endeavours to establish a popular government until they had dethroned and beheaded their unhappy king. They were now contending alone against surrounding states.

In this situation, the government turned to America, and demanded, in the friendship and assistance of the emancipated colonies, a return for the aid rendered them by Louis, the deposed king.

Mr. Genet was sent over as Minister from the French republic. The prudence of the President led him to issue a proclamation, expressing the intention of the government to maintain a strict neutrality. The animosities of France and England had often embroiled Europe, and they now threatened to involve America in the contest. The conduct of Genet was such that a request was made to the French government, desiring his recall. He had, in defiance of the President's proclamation, enlisted men, and fitted out privateers to cruise against Britain. The French government disavowed his proceedings, and sent Mr. Fauchet in his place.

The British had given orders to capture all American vessels trading to the French West India Islands, and American seamen were impressed by British vessels. On the other hand, complaints were made of unjust treatment from French vessels and French tribunals ; and at the same time the Algerine cruizers captured American vessels, and carried their crews into slavery. The President was unwearied in the execution of his duties. Mr. Jay was sent to England, to claim reparation for British spoliations ; remonstrances were made to the French government, and an agent sent to Algiers. In the mean time, the President having been twice unanimously elected, and fulfilled the period of service, now declined a re-election, and John Adams was chosen President, and Thomas Jefferson Vice-President.

Mr. Jay negotiated a treaty with England, the ratification of which was one of the last official acts of President Washington ; and though much difference of opinion existed as to its utility, all parties have agreed that the President acted from motives of the purest patriotism.

Soon after the retirement of Washington, Congress thought it necessary to raise a provisional army, on account of our disputes with France : and General Washington was

again appointed Commander-in-chief. He accepted the appointment, on condition that he should not be called to service until the army were in actual readiness to take the field.

On receiving pacific intelligence from France, the army was disbanded, and the armed vessels mostly laid up. The measures of the administration under Mr. Adams did not meet with that general approbation which had distinguished those of the former administration. In all popular governments, there will be a collision of parties, and the conduct of the rulers will be more or less subject to censure, though their intentions may be pure. Several acts were passed which met with considerable opposition.—Among these were the Alien and Sedition acts, and the act authorising a direct tax on houses and lands.

The Alien law empowered the President to seize any alien he might suspect to be inimical, and order him to depart the country. The Sedition law imposed a fine and imprisonment for writing and publishing any thing to bring the government or its officers into disrepute.

The 14th of December, 1799, Gen. Washington died at his seat in Virginia, in the 68th year of his age. The history of his country

is his best eulogium ; his most faithful monument, the love and admiration of the world.

He died as he had lived, calm, equable, and resigned ; consigning his spirit, with tranquil confidence, to the Saviour of mankind, and his fame to a grateful country.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

In what were the United States involved ?

What is said of the people of France ?

What did they look for from America ?

Who was sent over to America from France ?

What is said of Genet's conduct in America ?

How was his conduct viewed by the French government ?

What orders had been given by the British ?

What complaints were made ?

Who was sent to England ?

For what purpose ?

What measures was pursued toward France and Algiers ?

Who was elected President ?

What is said of Mr. Jay's treaty ?

Was Washington again called to the service of his country ?

On what occasion ?

Why was the army disbanded ?

What is said of the measures of the administration ?

What acts of the administration were unpopular ?

What power was given to the President by the alien law ?

What did the sedition law impose ?

When and where did Washington die ?

At what age ?



## LESSON XIX.

### FOUNDING OF WASHINGTON--WAR WITH TRIPOLI.

It had been strongly advised by Washington, that the seat of government should be removed to a more central situation than Philadelphia or New-York : accordingly a territory ten miles square, had been ceded to congress for that purpose, by Virginia and Maryland, and a city bearing the name of the father of his country, was founded on the Maryland side of the Potomac.

Hither the public offices were removed in 1800, and congress met here in December, for the first time. The city is four miles square; and is laid out on an elegant plan.

In 1801, Thomas Jefferson was elected President, and Aaron Burr, Vice-President of the United States.

Harmony now existed between the United States and the great European powers ; but a new scene of vexations, and eventually of war, arose from the piracies of the Barbary States.

The disputes with Tunis, Algiers, and Morocco, had been settled, but Tripoli demanded a tribute, which the United States determined not to pay. The consequence was, the capture of several vessels ; but these injuries were soon avenged. Captain Sterret, of the schooner *Enterprise*, fell in with and conquered a Tripolitan cruizer. The engagement was desperate, and lasted several hours.

The following year Commodore Dale was sent to the Mediterranean with three frigates and a sloop of war, to blockade the port of Tripoli, and protect American commerce.

In 1803, the frigate *Philadelphia* ran upon a rock near Tripoli, and was compelled to strike her colours, and her officers and men were made prisoners.

The following summer Lieut. Stephen Decatur had the address to destroy the captured frigate, which was then lying at anchor in the harbour. For the intrepidity and skill



displayed in this bold enterprise, Decatur was made a Post-Captain.

In August, Commodore Preble made three attacks upon the Tripolitan batteries, but without success, and the captive Americans were still treated with great barbarity.

In 1805, another attempt was made, with the co-operation of Hamet, the ex-bashaw of Tripoli, who had been driven from the throne by his brother. Mr. William Eaton, of Massachusetts, marched at the head of Hamet's forces from Alexandria to Derne, a distance of five hundred miles, over a sandy desert, and summoned the town to surrender. After a combat of two hours and a half, supported by the American squadron, the town was carried. Two other battles took place, in both of which the barbarians were compelled to retreat with precipitation, when a treaty was concluded with the reigning bashaw and the American prisoners set at liberty.

Since we mentioned the establishment of Kentucky, two new states have been added to the Union, Tennessee and Ohio; and in 1803, Louisiana was purchased from the French government, for fifteen million dollars.

In 1804, Captains Lewis and Clark were sent to explore the country. They ascended the Missouri in boats to the falls, a dis-

tance of three thousand miles ; thence crossed the rocky mountains to Columbia river, and thence to the Pacific ocean. They reached St. Louis, on their return, in September, 1806.

The year 1807 is remarkable for the trial of Aaron Burr, who was accused of an attempt to divide the western from the Atlantic states. After several days examination of witnesses, no positive proof appearing, he was acquitted.

A political dispute between him and Alexander Hamilton, led to a duel, in which the latter was killed.

The practice of impressing American seamen being continued by the British, caused great uneasiness, and at length, combined with other grievances, led to hostilities. In 1807, American commerce was interrupted both by the measures of the British and the French.—Both governments acknowledged that their interruptions of neutral commerce were unjustifiable ; but both justified themselves on the ground of retaliation.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

What had Washington advised ?

When was the seat of government removed ?

Who were the next executive officers ?

What new causes of vexation arose ?

What was demanded by Tripoli ?

What was the consequence of a refusal ?

How were these injuries avenged ?

Who was sent to the Mediterranean ?

With what force ?

Describe the loss of the frigate Philadelphia ?

By whom was she afterwards destroyed ?

What success had Commodore Preble ?

How were the captive Americans treated ?

Describe the expedition of 1805.

How many battles were fought ?

What was the result ?

What new states have been added to the Union ?

What territory was purchased ?

Describe the expedition of Lewis and Clark.

For what is the year 1807 remarkable ?

What led to hostilities with Britain ?

What did the British and French acknowledge ?



## LESSON XX.

### WAR WITH ENGLAND.

Among the immediate causes of the late war, was the practice of searching A-

and impressing such of the seamen as were recognized as natives of the kingdom of Great Britain. This custom, in itself at variance with the rights of civilized nations, is also liable to great abuse, from the impossibility of distinguishing between people speaking the same language. Many naturalized citizens of America, and even some natives, were impressed, and it was justly asserted that Great Britain could have no more right to invade the deck of a ship, sailing under the protection of the American flag, than to invade a portion of the American territory.

In April, 1806, a British vessel of war fired upon an American coaster, and killed a man on board. This event excited considerable sensation, and the President issued a proclamation, agreeable to an act of Congress, forbidding any succour to be given to the vessel, in any harbour of the United States.

On the 22d of June, the British ship *Leopard*, of 45 guns, attacked the frigate *Chesapeake*, carrying 36 guns. Killed 4 men and wounded 16. Commodore Barron, who commanded the *Chesapeake*, immediately struck her colours, and the British commander took 4 men, whom he claimed as British subjects. These men had previously served in the British service. One of them

was hanged as a deserter, one died in prison, and three of the four were proved to be native born Americans.

Towards the close of the year 1807, the President recommended a general embargo, and Congress immediately enacted a law to prohibit commercial intercourse with foreign nations. In the United States the embargo met with considerable opposition, and in New England it was with difficulty enforced.

For the preservation of domestic peace, the government found it necessary to repeal the embargo law as it respected certain articles, and they substituted a non-intercourse with France and England. The insulting behaviour of Mr. Jackson, the minister from England, heightened the resentment of America, and a rencounter between the ships of war, the *President* and *Little Belt*, increased the unfriendly sentiments of England.

The British government disavowed the attack upon the *Chesapeake*, and made provisions to support the families of the killed and wounded; and the impressed sailors were restored. In the meantime, Mr. Jefferson having completed two full periods of service, declined a re-election, and James Madison was chosen President, and George Clinton, Vice-President. All experiments

having failed to produce a change of the systems practised by Great Britain and France against the commerce of the United States, war was declared against England on the 18th of June, 1812. This result was hastened by the disclosures of John Henry, who had been employed by Governor Craig, of Canada, to promote dissensions in the Eastern states, and withdraw them from the Union. His labours not being rewarded by the British according to his expectation, he disclosed the plot, and obtained \$50,000 for the discovery. With the wages of treachery, he embarked for France in a public vessel.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

What was one of the immediate causes of the war ?

How is this custom liable to abuse ?

What occurred in 1806 ?

What did this event excite ?

What occurred on the 22d of June ?

What did the President recommend ?

How was the embargo regarded by the people ?

Where did it meet with most opposition ?

What measure did the government find necessary ?

What heightened the resentment of America ?

Did the British government approve the attack on the Chesapeake ?

What restitution was made ?

Who was the next President ?

When was war declared ?

What hastened the declaration ?

What did Henry receive for his disclosures ?

Whither did he go ?



## LESSON XXI.

### SURRENDER OF DETROIT--BATTLE OF QUEENSTOWN.

The first military enterprise undertaken, was the invasion of Canada by General Hull, the Governor of Michigan territory. On the 12th of July he crossed over into Canada, and took possession of Sandwich ; issued a proclamation, in which he stated that he had a force what were "*able to look down all opposition,*" and offered protection to the inhabitants who should rally round his standard.

It was expected he would proceed immediately to the conquest of Fort Malden ; but the day of the meditated attack, to the inex-

pressible astonishment of the brave Americans, orders were given to cross over to Detroit. By this disgraceful retreat the inhabitants of Canada, who had confided in his offers of protection, were abandoned to the mercy of the British.—Shortly after, a party of troops, with supplies for the American camp, were attacked near the river Rasin, and compelled to retreat, with the loss of 19 killed and wounded. Another battle took place at Maguaga, and, after a severe action of three hours, the enemy were compelled to retreat to their boats.

On the 15th of August, the British General took a position opposite Detroit, and sent over a flag, demanding a surrender of the American garrison. Gen. Hull returned for answer that the fort would be defended to the last extremity.

The next day the enemy were discovered crossing the river to attack the fort, when, without the slightest cause, the American commander ordered his troops to abandon their position, and betake themselves to the fort. A white flag was then suspended from the fort ; and the British officer, who rode up to ascertain the cause, could hardly believe that a surrender was intended, until a capitulation was made.

By this disgraceful surrender, the British were put in possession of all the public stores



and arms, and the American troops were conveyed to Montreal and fort George, as prisoners of war. General Hull was afterwards tried and condemned to suffer death; but in consequence of his age, and revolutionary services, was pardoned.

Our disgraces on land were compensated by the skill, gallantry, and brilliant achievements of our naval officers. Captain Hull of the *Constitution*, captured the British frigate *Guerriere* on the 10th of September; and from this period to the close of the war, the American newspapers were filled with accounts of naval exploits, both in public and private armed vessels. Captain Porter, of the *Essex*, in a daring attempt, cut out a brig from a convoy, and found on board 14,000 dollars, and 150 soldiers. He afterwards captured the *Alert*. The *President* and the *Argus* were also fortunate; and the Gallant Commodore Decatur, by the capture of the *Macedonian*, added another laurel to those which already graced his brow.

In a few months the British lost upwards of 250 merchant vessels, two frigates, and several smaller public vessels.

During the summer and autumn, a considerable force was collected on the Niagara frontier, and on the 12th of October the troops crossed over and stormed the enemy's

teries at Queenstown. The attack was at first successful; the British were three times routed; but being reinforced, while the volunteers on the opposite side refused to cross over, the Americans were at last obliged to yield to superior numbers. In this action the British lost Gen. Brock. General Wadsworth, Colonels Van Rensselaer, Christie, and Scott, and many other American officers, highly distinguished themselves, and were much applauded.

General Smythe soon after took the command; and on the 17th of November, announced his intention of crossing into Canada. On the 28th two thousand men were embarked in the boats, waiting only for orders, and an equal number paraded the shore to act as a reserve. Suddenly General Smythe abandoned the enterprise. The troops were indignant, and it was with difficulty they could be calmed. On the day following, the troops were again embarked, and the expedition again abandoned.

The discontent of the volunteers was not now confined to murmurs; they even threatened the life of the General, who was compelled to place a guard near his person. After challenging General Porter of the New-York volunteers, Gen. Smythe retired

to his seat in Virginia, and did not resume the command.

At the west, Gen. Harrison was called to the command, and several expeditions were conducted by Generals Hopkins and Tupper. General Winchester commanded about 1000 men, chiefly volunteers from Kentucky. In an engagement with the British and Indians, he was made prisoner, and his men were barbarously murdered after they had surrendered. Above sixty of the wounded were burned in the houses of the inhabitants. The barbarity of this action has disgraced the name of Proctor, the British leader, and excited the strongest indignation in the bosom of Americans.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

- What was the first military enterprise ?
- When did Gen. Hull cross into Canada ?
- What was expected ?
- What orders were given ?
- What two battles took place shortly after ?
- Where did the British take a position ?
- What demand was made ?
- What was the reply ?

Give an account of the surrender of Gen. Hull ?

Of what were the British put in possession ?

How were our disgraces compensated ?

What naval successes are mentioned ?

What did the British lose ?

Give an account of the battle of Queens-town ?

Describe the operations of Gen. Smythe ?

Who was called to the command in the west ?

What troops were commanded by Gen. Winchester ?

What was the fate of his army ?

How was the wounded disposed of ?

Who was the leader of the British troops ?



## LESSON XXXI.

### CONTINUATION OF THE WAR.

By an exchange of prisoners, many valuable officers who were captured in the first campaign, were restored to the American army. The troops enlisted in the middle and northern districts, were marched to Sacket's harbour and its vicinity. The first interesting

event in that quarter, was the attack on Ogdensburgh, by the British, on the 21st of February. The Americans under Colonels Forsyth and Benedict, were compelled to evacuate the town.

This partial defeat was soon compensated by the capture of York, the capital of Upper Canada. General Dearborn, who commanded the northern frontier, assigned this service to General Pike, at his particular request ; and in the performance of his duty the gallant soldier was mortally wounded by the explosion of a magazine.

Like Wolfe, he died in the arms of victory. "Move on, my brave fellows," he exclaimed ; "avenge your General." They instantly obeyed. He was then carried on board a vessel, and shortly after was gratified with the sight of the British flag, which he directed to be placed under his head, and contentedly expired.

Among the most brilliant naval victories, we should enumerate the capture of the frigate Java, by Captain Bainbridge. The action lasted one hour and a half, during which the enemy were completely dismasted, and their commander was mortally wounded. Soon afterwards, General Harrison successfully defended fort Meigs for thirteen days, against the British and Indians, under Gen. Proctor.

The year 1813 was distinguished for a variety of engagements by sea and land, among the most important of which we may reckon the loss of the Chesapeake, which was captured by the Shannon. The gallant Captain Lawrence, and his first Lieutenant, Ludlow, were killed in the action.

The object of the expedition against York, was to take or destroy the public property there ; and this being now attained, the town was evacuated on the first of May. The ensuing summer, fort George on the Canada side of Niagara river, was taken by the American troops ; and the British were repulsed in an attack on Sacket's Harbour. General Dearborn retired from the service, leaving fort George to the command of Colonel Boyd. In July the British attacked Plattsburgh, destroyed the public stores, and carried off large quantities of private property.

In the mean time, the British under Admiral Cockburn, were carrying on a predatory warfare on the shores of Chesapeake Bay. Frenchtown and Havre de Grace were plundered and burned, with little resistance on the part of the Americans. The arrival of Admiral Warren augmented the British naval forces in the Chesapeake, and Norfolk was destined to be the first place of attack. Attempting to land on Craney-Island, they were so vigor-

ously repulsed, that the design was abandoned.

They next proceeded against Hampton, took possession of the town, and treated the inhabitants with great barbarity. The remainder of the summer was spent by the British in threatening Washington, Annapolis and Baltimore.

At the west, Major Croghan, a youth of only 21 years of age, with 160 men, and one six-pounder, defeated 500 British regulars under Proctor, and 800 Indians, led by Tecumseh and Dixon, two celebrated Indian warriors.

Commodore Perry obtained a splendid victory on Lake Erie, which he has described in the following laconic letter :—" We have met the enemy, and *they are ours* ; two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop."

On the 2d of October, Gen Harrison defeated Proctor and Tecumseh, in Upper Canada ; and Tecumseh was slain. He was a brave warrior and a subtle politician, and his fall was more weakening to the Indians than the loss of half their nation.

Near the close of the year 1813, General M'Clure, to whom had been given the charge of fort George, was ordered to evacuate the fort, and misconceiving his instructions, he preceded his retreat by burning

Newark. This excited the resentment of the British ; and fort Niagara being surprised, by the negligence of Captain Leonard, nearly all the garrison were put to the sword ; and the beautiful villages, Lewistown, Manchester, Youngstown, and Buffalo, were burned to the ground.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

To what place were troops marched ?

Where was the first interesting engagement ?

How was this defeat compensated ?

What distinguished officer fell in the attack of York ?

What is said of his death ?

What naval victory was obtained ?

What fort defended ?

By whom ?

What loss is next mentioned ?

When did the army leave York ?

What fort was taken ?

Where were the British repulsed ?

Who took the command of the army ?

What occurred in July ?

What villages were plundered and burned ?

By whom ?



- What British admiral arrived ?  
What city was the object of attack ?  
Where were the British repulsed ?  
Whither did they next proceed ?  
How did they conduct ?  
How was the summer spent ?  
Describe the victory of Major Croghan ?  
What other victory was obtained ?  
Repeat the letter of Commodore Perry.  
Whom did General Harrison defeat ?  
What is said of Tecumseh ?  
Who had the command of fort George ?  
What orders did he receive ?  
How did he misconceive them ?  
How did the British resent the burning of Newark ?  
What villages were burnt ?



## LESSON XXIII.

### PEACE.

In the beginning of the year 1814, a British flag of truce arrived at Annapolis, with despatches, announcing the expulsion of the British from the city, and that the Prince Regent of England was willing to

enter on direct negotiations for Peace. The President frankly acceded to the proposal ; and Henry Clay, and Jonathan Russel, were appointed to go to Europe, and with John Q. Adams, James A. Bayard and Albert Gallatin, already there, to form a diplomatic body, to commence the pleasing business of reconciliation.

In the mean, time the war was carried on with renewed vigour on both sides. The eastern states had been comparatively exempted from the calamities of the war ; but they now suffered in turn, from the ravages of the English navy. In Saybrook, Wareham and Scituate, the American shipping was destroyed by the British ; and a part of Maine, lying between Penobscot river and Passamaquoddy, was overrun by them.

At Stonington, in Connecticut, the inhabitants very gallantly defended themselves, and the victory which the enemy had thought secure, was changed into mortification and defeat.

The American navy maintained, in every Action, the same superiority by which its glory was acquired ; and on land, the battles of Chippewa and Niagara did equal honour to the bravery of the troops, and the spirit of their commanders. In both actions, the American troops were victorious. A formidable attack upon fort Erie, now in possession

of the Americans, was soon afterwards repelled with great loss.

In June following, intelligence arrived of the complete overthrow of Napoleon Bonaparte ; and serious apprehensions were entertained from the exertions of Great Britain, now directed to a single point.

These apprehensions were soon realized. A fleet of 21 sail of the line, under Admiral Cochrane, arrived in the Chesapeake ; and another fleet from Bermuda, under Admiral Malcolm. Accompanying these were several thousand land troops, from the victorious army of Lord Wellington, commanded by General Ross, one of his most active officers. On the 24th of August, General Ross succeeded in taking Washington, and burned the capital and other public buldings. Gen. Ross remained in Washington until 8 o'clock in the evening of the 25th, and returned without molestation. In the mean time, Captain Gordon ascended the Potomac, and captured Alexandria.

The next object of attack was Baltimore, which was resolutely defended. After a bombardment of 25 hours, the British retired, and the capture of the city was totally abandoned.

The next occurrence of importance was the brilliant victory of Commodore M'Don-

ough over the British squadron on lake Champlain, at the same time that General Macomb repulsed the British forces under Sir George Provost, at Plattsburgh.

Difficulties of long standing between the two nations retarded the proceedings of the American and British Commissioners abroad; and in September the enemy prepared to make a formidable invasion of Louisiana.— On the 2d of December, General Jackson arrived at New-Orleans from Mobile, after performing important services at Pensacola. Three days after his arrival, the British squadron appeared off the coast to the east of the Mississippi. On the 28th General Packenham landed the main body of his army, and attacked the American entrenchments. After a severe contest of seven hours, he was compelled to retire.

On the 1st of January, another attack was made, and the British were again repulsed. On the 8th, a memorable victory was obtained. Both parties fought with determination and bravery, though the loss was very unequal. The British lost seven hundred killed, fourteen hundred wounded, and five hundred prisoners; while the Americans, included the troops on both banks of the Mississippi, lost only thirteen killed, thirty-nine wounded, and nineteen missing. The in-

vaders lost many valuable officers, among whom was Sir Edward Packenham, a brother-in-law of Lord Wellington. Generals Keene and Gibbs survived but a few days, and the command devolved on General Lambert. This is the last military achievement we have to record. A treaty of peace had been signed at Ghent, on the 24th of December, in the preceding year, which received the sanction of the Prince Regent in England, on the 28th, and was signed by the President on the 1st of February, 1815.

Thus ended the second war with England. In the treaty no allusion was made to the causes of the war : but security against future aggression rests on a firmer basis than the most solemn treaty ; for Great Britain has proved the strength and spirit of our rising republic.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

What intelligence was received by the flag of truce ?

What was the disposition of the Prince Regent towards America ?

How were his proposals met ?

Were the eastern states exempted from the consequences of the war ?

What towns were destroyed ?

What territory was overrun ?

How were the enemy received at Stonington ?

What is said of the navy ?

What battles are mentioned ?

What intelligence was received in June following ?

What apprehensions were entertained ?

Were they realized ?

When was Washington taken ?

What buildings were destroyed ?

What other city was taken ?

What was the next object of attack ?

How was Baltimore defended ?

What was the next important occurrence ?

For what did the enemy prepare ?

When did Gen. Pakenham land his troops ?

Where was General Jackson ?

What was the result of the attacks of the 28th December, and the 1st of January ?

What occurred on the 8th of January ?

What was the loss of the British ?

How many Americans fell ?

What was the fate of Gen. Pakenham ?

Of Generals Keene and Gibbs ?

When and where was the treaty of peace signed ?

When ratified by the Prince Regent ?

When by the President ?

On what rests security against future aggression ?



## LESSON XXIV.

### CESSION OF THE FLORIDAS FORMATION OF NEW STATES.

The amicable relations with Great Britain, which had been restored by the treaty of peace, were soon afterwards confirmed by a treaty of commerce.

In 1816, Congress voted an annual appropriation of one million of dollars during eight years, to augment the naval force of the United States, and re-established the national bank, the charter of which had expired in 1810. The next subject which engrossed the attention of Congress, was a revision of the duties on imported goods. In forming the tariff, a judicious attention was given to the protection of domestic manufactures.

In 1817, Mr. Madison having twice filled the office of President, did not offer himself for a third election, and his place was supplied by James Monroe ; the Vice-Presidential office being assigned to Daniel D. Tompkins, of New-York.

In 1818, we have to mention the war with the Seminole Indians. Pensacola was taken from the Spaniards by General Andrew Jackson, in consequence of their giving protection to the Indians with whom the United States were at war. Arbuthnot and Ambrister, two British subjects, found in arms against the United States, were tried by a court martial, and found guilty. Arbuthnot was sentenced to be hanged, and Ambrister to be shot; but one of the members of the court requesting a re-consideration of his vote, the sentence of Ambrister was commuted for corporeal punishment, and twelve months imprisonment to hard labour. Gen. Jackson disapproving the commutation, the first sentence was executed.

On the 8th July, the bones of General Richard Montgomery, having been brought from Canada, pursuant to a resolution of the Legislature of New-York, were interred with funeral honours, under a Monument erected to his memory in front of St. Paul's church, in the City of New-York.

Few events have taken place since the peace of 1815, which require a place on the page of history. The rapid extension of territory which has added several new states to the Union, the progress of agriculture, science, and the arts; the internal improve-



ments of roads, bridges, and canals, are all subjects of deep and growing interest ; but from the limits of our plan, can only receive a brief notice.

Since the admission of Louisiana into the Union in 1812, six other states have been added ; and the territory of the United States now extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Indiana was admitted into the Union in 1816 ; Mississippi in 1817 ; Illinois in 1818 ; Alabama in 1819 ; Maine, and Missouri, in 1820. Much discussion took place on the admission of Missouri, and it was, at first, only admitted conditionally. But having complied with the act of Congress, restricting it from preventing the residence of free persons of colour, it was formally declared a state by a proclamation of the President, on the 10th of August, 1821.

We have before mentioned the existence of slavery in the United States. This evil is gradually decreasing, provision having been made in the Constitution to prevent the importation of slaves after the year 1807. In Indiana and Illinois, slavery is forbidden by a law of Congress to exist ; and it had long ceased in Maine, as a district of Massachusetts. Indiana and Illinois are sections of the terri-

tory north-west of Ohio, part of which formed the state of Ohio—Mississippi and Alabama formerly belonged to Georgia—Maine was separated from Massachusetts, and Missouri from that extensive region ceded to the United States by France, under the name of Louisiana.

In February, 1819, a treaty with Spain was concluded at Washington, by which the provinces of East and West Florida were ceded to the United States. This treaty was ratified by Ferdinand, King of Spain, in October, 1820, and approved by the President and Senate of the United States, in 1821.

Five millions of dollars were named as the price of the Floridas ; but this sum is not paid to Spain, but apportioned among American citizens, as an indemnity for illegal seizures of their property in Spanish ports, when under the dominion of France.

Since the peace of 1815, conventions have been called in several of the States, to revise and amend their Constitutions. In Connecticut, the original charter of Charles the Second had continued to be the Constitution of the State, after the revolution ; and though it was remarkably liberal for a colonial go-

vernment, several alterations were necessary to adapt it to the wishes of a free and enlightened people. It is a fact creditable to the American people, that while in monarchical governments, effective alterations are seldom attained without a recurrence to arms, revolutions are here effected by peaceable legislation, and the people cheertully acquiesce in the will of the majority.

In New-York, the most important alteration of the Constitution regards the elective franchise, which is now extended to all free citizens, whether rich or poor. In Massachusetts, the Convention, after mature deliberation, returned the Constitution to the people, without any material alteration.



#### QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

How was peace confirmed ?

What was voted by Congress ?

What subject next engrossed attention ?

Who was the next President ?

What is mentioned ?

What city was taken by Gen. Jackson ?

What was the crime of Arbuthnot and Ambrister ?

What sentence was passed upon them ?

What occurred on the 8th July ?

What new states have been admitted ?

When ?

What is said of Missouri ?

What provision was made in the Constitution of the United States, with respect to slavery ?

From what territories were the new States formed ?

What territories was ceded to the United States by Spain ?

When ?

What was the nominal price of the Floridas ?

How was it apportioned ?

For what have Conventions been called ?

What is said of Connecticut ?

Of New-York ?

Of Massachusetts ?

## CONCLUSION.

We have now brought our history nearly to the present period ; and it only remains that we should briefly note the preceding and present year, and make a few concluding remarks.

In looking over the public journals, though we find much to be interested in, little has occurred in the two last years which properly comes within the limits of an abridged history of the United States.

Manufacturers and agriculture continue to prosper, and societies for their encouragement have been formed in almost every state and county.

The only interruption of our commercial prosperity have been the depredations of pirates. The bays and inlets of the West India Islands, particularly of Cuba, have been their principal resort. Many vessels have been taken and plundered by them, and sometimes the officers and crews inhumanly murdered. To check their lawless depredations, the vessels of the United States have been ordered to cruise among the West India Islands. In an engagement with a piratical vessel, the brave Lieut. Allen lost his life, deeply regretted by his fellow citizens,—Many of the pirates have been taken, brought to the United States, and have suffered the penalty of the law ; and very lately Commodore Porter has succeeded in capturing a number of piratical vessels from the Island of Cuba, which has quite broken up their rendezvous on that Island, and given a severe check to these lawless marauders.

The revolutions in South America, in which the Spanish provinces have thrown off their allegiance to the parent country, have opened a new field for American enterprise ; and it is hoped that a canal will be cut across the isthmus of Darien, opening a direct communication between the Atlantic and Pa-

cific Oceans. A wise and liberal government, seconded by the exertions of enterprising individuals might soon effect so desirable an object.

The cession of the Floridas is important, as extending the boundary of the United States to the gulph of Mexico: and, consequently, removing the inconvenience of having Amelia Island occupied by irregular troops, under commissions from the South American republics and exciting jealousies between the government and territories still belonging to Spain. It will also prevent the inroads of the Seminole and other tribes of Indians; and it designates the boundary on the side of Mexico, which was left undefended in the cession of Louisiana.

Literature and Science are every year extending in the United States, and no government has more liberally encouraged schools for elementary instruction.

The government of the United States is a representative republic. The executive power is vested in a President and Vice-President who hold their offices during the term of four years. The legislative power is lodged in a Senate and House of Representatives, which, when assembled, are, collectively called the Congress. The Representatives are elected every second year; the Senators are chosen for six years.

The governments of the several States are elective, and republican, every officer being appointed, either directly or indirectly, by the people. The executive power is vested in a Governor. One distinguishing feature of the government is universal toleration. The Constitution recognises no established religion, and all sects are protected in the peaceable enjoyment of their own tenets and rites. Religion thus rests on its proper basis—the protection of its Almighty Author, while the Christian ministry receives an ample support from the voluntary exertions of societies and individuals.

Having completed her assigned task, the compiler of this work begs leave to congratulate her little pupils, for whose use it is intended, on the auspicious era in which it has pleased Divine Providence to call them upon the stage of action. Born in a land of liberty, in a time when peace and plenty are abundantly enjoyed, and when unusual exertions are made to diffuse the blessings of education, on you, dear children, rest a responsibility upon which you cannot too early or too seriously reflect.

Our Fathers crossed the pathless ocean—found a new world, and prepared it for the happy residence of liberty; they toiled—they fought—they bled to secure their offspring the blessings which you now enjoy. It remains for the rising hope of America to fulfil the high destinies to which they are called; to exalt, by their virtues, the country which gave them birth, and transmit entire to their descendants the glorious legacy of freedom.

When the children who study this History are older, they will read the Histories of ancient nations, many of which exist no more. They will see how the republics of Greece, of Rome, and of Syracuse, gradually lost their freedom and independence, when they declined from those noble virtues which distinguished the days of their glory. They will find that industry and economy are the true wealth of nations; that luxury and extravagance are the bane of liberty; and that no nation can long continue free unless her children are instructed to fear God and practice virtue. You may boast, in vain, of the freedom you enjoy, if your minds are the slaves of ignorance and vice. Improve, then, the blessings within your reach, and remember that the voice of inspiration has said, “*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*”

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